

The background of the cover is a dramatic, artistic illustration. It depicts a view of Earth from space, showing the Western Hemisphere with North and South America visible. A bright, ethereal light source, possibly a star or a divine presence, shines from the upper left, creating a large, glowing blue and white nebula-like effect that illuminates the scene. The Moon is visible in the upper right quadrant. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues, blacks, and bright whites, with a textured, painterly quality.

RELEASING HEAVEN INTO EARTH

UNDERSTAND THE **SUPERNATURAL POWER** OF YOUR PRAYERS

BY LYN PACKER



Extreme Prophetic NZ

RELEASING HEAVEN INTO EARTH

UNDERSTAND THE SUPERNATURAL POWER OF YOUR PRAYERS

By Lyn Packer

RELEASING HEAVEN INTO EARTH

© 2011 Lyn Packer Extreme Prophetic NZ

Extreme Prophetic New Zealand, www.extremepropheticnz.com
PO Box 12-1124, Henderson, Auckland Ph 09 833 6873

RELEASING HEAVEN INTO EARTH

CONTENTS

	INTRODUCTION	4
1	LIVING FROM TWO REALMS	6
2	PRAYER – THEN & NOW	8
3	WHAT IS THRONE ROOM PRAYER/INTERCESSION	19
4	WHERE DO WE FIT	23
5	REPOSITIONING OUR PRAYER ALTARS	26
6	UNDERSTANDING N/C WARFARE	33
7	THE FIGHT	42
8	SEEING & HEARING FROM GOD	51
	ABOUT LYN PACKER	62

RELEASING HEAVEN INTO EARTH

INTRODUCTION

Around the world countless Christians are praying and crying out to God to answer their prayers and are meeting with varying degrees of success. Why is this, do you think?

- Is it because God isn't listening? Have our sins made a separation between us and God?
- Is it because we haven't prayed and fasted long enough?
- Is it because the bowls of prayer aren't yet full in heaven and God is waiting until they are before he will pour his answers and his Spirit out?
- Is it because we haven't defeated the principalities and powers over our cities and regions?
- Have we eagerly embraced popular teachings about intercession because someone we respect has preached them or written a book about them, yet have not checked scripture for ourselves regarding them?
- Have we taken verses out of context and used them to support our views? (we all do, you know, at some time or other)
- Or is it because we haven't really understood how to pray and we've prayed unfruitful, and even ignorant, prayers at times?

The Bible is very clear that God answers prayer and it is also very clear on a lot of other things regarding prayer. Yet have we really understood what it has said, or has a veil of misunderstanding clouded our vision and comprehension, causing us to inadvertently work against God in the way that we pray and in the things we declare? Are we even praying from a New Covenant perspective or are we mixing the covenants and trying to work from both law and grace at the same time? When we haven't clearly understood the New Covenant we can try and function from both the Old and the New, and all too often one works against the other, causing fruitlessness in our lives.

I've asked a lot of questions right up front on purpose. Why? Because these are some of the questions I have been asking myself recently. We are in a Kairos time when God has taken the church into a season of reformation and part of what he is reforming is our theology. That reformation will totally change the way the church sees, speaks and therefore acts. God is bringing us into the time of the unveiling of the sons and daughters of God, as

spoken of in Rom 8:19. To do so he must correct our wrong theology and mindsets and bring us into a correct understanding that will inevitably lead to us releasing heaven into earth with power on a scale we've never operated in before.

All of us see scripture and our Christian walk through the lens of our current theological understanding and until Holy Spirit comes with revelation, and follows it up with new understanding, we will continue to function from our old, and possibly wrong, mindsets.

I don't claim to know everything about prayer, but I am on a journey of looking at what I believe and why I believe it. I have been going through a process of checking my beliefs against what scripture says and allowing Holy Spirit to pull down and root out my wonky theology and replace it with truth. I'm sure that there will continue to be more that I haven't yet seen or understood. So don't take this teaching as being the last word or a complete understanding of prayer and intercession. Take it for what it is, an attempt to clear up some wrong understandings and to bring us more into line with the Word of God than we have been.

I pray that Holy Spirit will bring you into a fresh place of revelation as you study this teaching. I know it will be beneficial to you in understanding the awesome supernatural power of your prayers as they release heaven into earth. Right around the globe people are waiting for you to realize and release the power of prayer – to change lives and to bring a shift into towns, regions and nations.

What an awesome privilege we have been given to intercede with Jesus and to see heaven released into earth, to see his Kingdom come and his will be done. A grand adventure awaits as we journey with Jesus and Holy Spirit through this lifetime, a journey where we get to see our supernaturally powered prayers answered in a way that sets people free, releases provision from heaven into earth and shows and trains others to walk in what we walk in.

Activating Prayer

"Holy Spirit come and demolish wrong mindsets and beliefs, correct wrong theology, and help us to understand that it is alright to question what we have been taught and to check it against your Word. Be to us the Spirit of revelation and understanding. Set us free to co-operate with you to a greater degree and to see the reality of heaven being released with a new degree of power into earth through our prayers."

RELEASING HEAVEN INTO EARTH

1

LIVING FROM TWO REALMS¹

In this manual we'll be using interchangeable terms that mean the same thing – they all mean prayer which takes place both on earth and in the heavenly realms at the same time. Those terms are New Covenant prayer, Throne Room prayer and Third Heaven intercession. To understand New Covenant or Third Heaven intercession we must first of all understand something that is absolutely fundamental to our being able to operate properly in prayer, and in the rest of our Christian walk. That is...

You were created to live from two realms simultaneously – the eternal heavenly realm and the earthly realm where we currently live.

This truth is absolutely essential to know and to walk in, yet not every Christian understands it and many have never even heard of it. Indeed many Christians do not yet understand how to hear God or how to see into the heavenly realms, yet the ability to see and to hear what the Lord is doing is something that is absolutely essential and foundational to the Christian walk. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 4:18 to “fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, for what is seen is temporary and what is unseen is eternal.”

- **The seen realm** - refers to everything in our physical, earthly and temporal plane. We experience the seen realm with our five senses.
- **The unseen realm** - Everything outside of the physical earthly realm is considered the unseen realm. The eternal, unseen realm is the realm where God dwells. This heavenly realm is actually more real than the temporal realm that we live in. One day all that we can see in this present earthly realm will be gone, but the eternal realm remains forever. We experience the unseen realm through our spiritual senses and occasionally even our physical senses.

For Paul to say “fix your eyes on what is unseen” must mean that there is the ability within us to see into that realm. He says “fix your eyes” - fixed eyes are eyes that are focused, both with the intent to see and the ability to see.

Paul doesn't present it as an optional extra. He emphatically tells us what we should be doing and how we should be seeing. Paul teaches that we must live from two realms - the seen and the unseen, the eternal and the temporal. Because we are now brought out of the kingdom

of darkness into the Kingdom of Light, and are now citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven and ambassadors of that Kingdom, then the eternal realm is to be the predominant realm we live from. How do we see what is unseen? We see with the eyes of our spirit. (We'll look at this in greater depth later in this manual)

In John 5:19 Jesus taught that seeing and hearing what God is doing was vital to how he lived and ministered. I believe he experienced revelatory encounters with God daily and he wants us to experience God in that same way. Jesus lived from two realms simultaneously, with the emphasis being on the eternal realm affecting and changing the temporal. I believe he alluded to this as he spoke to Nicodemus when he said "No one has ascended into heaven, but he who descended from heaven: **the Son of Man** who is in heaven." (John 3:13) Also in John 6:46 "Not any man has seen the Father, save he which is of God, he has seen the Father."

Jesus knew that true relationship and the life of the Spirit could not just be based on what was written in a book, even when that book contained God's word to man. The Pharisees had the scriptures, yet they lived a life that was lacking in relationship with God and his power. By his lifestyle **Jesus showed us that true Christian life is lived best when it comes out of relationship - when we are able to see what the Father is doing and hear what he is saying.** Jesus knew how to access the heavenly realms and he lived from that perspective. He showed us what it is all about - relationship! It's about experiencing God in our daily life and co-operating with Him in what He shows us. In fact we can't legally access revelation from the spirit realm without going through Jesus. **He is the door** (John 10:7).

Allow Jesus and Holy Spirit to open your eyes to see beyond the natural into the spiritual. Allow Holy Spirit to teach you and guide you into truth (John 16:13); that's what he loves to do. Allow him to show you the wonder of living from two realms simultaneously. Adventure with him into the unseen and discover the wonder of the Kingdom of Heaven and then release it into earth in power.

Activating Prayer

Father, I thank you for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. Thank you for desiring to give me revelation as an invitation to intimacy and co-operation with you. I long to know you more! So I ask that the Spirit of wisdom and revelation would operate at a deeper level in my life. I want to walk in a place of closer dependency on you and co-operation with you. I receive that now by faith. I look forward with expectation to living a life of revelation. Thank you for that, Lord.

¹ This chapter is from my book "Visions, Visitations & the Voice of God"

RELEASING HEAVEN INTO EARTH

2

PRAYER – THEN AND NOW

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray he said to pray for the will of the Father to be done in the earth just as it is done in heaven, and for his Kingdom to come on the earth.

This is where it all begins - in the will of the Father in heaven. True Christian prayer doesn't begin here on earth and try to reach heaven, hoping that our God will somehow hear us, as is the case in so many religions. Christian prayer begins in heaven. It begins with the will of the Father and flows through Jesus and Holy Spirit, who move us and prompt us as we pray.

Prayer is a cycle of communication between us and heaven that releases God's will into earth. The purpose of prayer, even 'personal needs' prayer, is to bring us into a place where we can be with the Lord, delight in him and let him delight in us. It is where we communicate our heart to him, hear his heart and release his purposes and his will into earth.

God loves our prayers. Proverbs 15:8 says, *"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is his delight."*

Maresh Chavda says, "Prayer is not so much a duty as a delight for God and his creation. It is the place where we get to fellowship with him, know his heart and he ours, and participate with him in the affairs of his creation. In Song of Songs, the King speaks to his beloved, *"O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely"* (Song of Solomon 2:14).

When we pray we are turning our eyes to our Father and communicating our love, our joy, our faith and expectation in him. We are calling on his name, that is the fullness of every covenantal promise and blessing, and delighting in him. In prayer there is an exchange, like the kiss of heaven. We breathe him in and exhale out his answer to the earth."

So what happened? How did prayer get to be a chore instead of a delight? How did it become something we do because we think we should, or a shopping list, or... whatever prayer has come to mean that is different from its original purpose?

Old Covenant, New Covenant

There are many different types of prayer recorded throughout scripture. They are all valid forms of prayer, but there is a difference between how they would have operated in the Old Covenant and how they operate in the New Covenant.

In the Old Covenant, while man started out with a close relationship with God, over time the way God was viewed became more and more clouded, and relationship with him became increasingly wrapped up in rules and regulations. He was, on the whole, seen by most people as distant, a serious God of judgment and severe punishment, a God to be feared, a God to be approached carefully, a God who had to be approached only at certain times in certain ways, a God of rituals, rules and regulations.

Then along came Jesus who told us he was a loving Father, approachable, interested in our everyday life, joyful, one who loves to give to his children, and one with whom we can have a loving relationship, as well as him still being holy. Because of Jesus's work on the cross we now have relationship with God, freedom of access to him, no rituals or regulations surrounding that access, and boldness and confidence in approaching him. We can know that our prayers will be answered, that our needs are already met in him, and that the answer to our need's prayer is yes, granted!

This changes everything, as you will see as we continue to look at New Covenant prayer throughout this school.

Let's look at some of the types of prayer mentioned in scripture ¹. As we do, think about whether there is any difference between how they would function under the Old Covenant and how they would function under the New Covenant.

- **Supplications, Prayers** - 1 Tim 2:1,2; Phil 4:6
- **Surrender / Consecration** - Matt 26:39
- **Petitions** - 1 Sam 1:27; Matt 7:7,11; James 4:2,
- **Intercession** - Isa 59:15,16; Gal 6:2; 1 Tim 2:1,2
- **Travail** - Heb 5:7; Rom 8:26
- **Decrees** - Esther 9:13,14; Job 22:28
- **Praise, adoration** - Psa 100:4; Luke 24:52,53
- **Prophetic Prayer and Actions** - Acts 2:17
- **Groaning** - Rom 8:23-28
- **Confession** - 1 John 1:9; James 5:16

- **Praying in Tongues** - 1 Cor 14:2-4
- **Prayers of Unity** - Matt 18:19
- **Prayer with fasting** - Acts 13:2,3
- **Thanksgivings** - 1 Tim 2:1; Psa 100:4
- **Praying the Word** - Heb 4:12
- **Warfare Prayer** - Eph 6:12-18; Matt 18:18
- **All manner of prayer** - Eph 6:18

You were created to live from two realms simultaneously - the heavenly realm and the earthly realm. Intercession, as we have known it over the years, has tended to operate mostly with people in the earthly realm trying to break through to heaven to access God or fighting principalities, powers and demonic hosts in the second heaven arena.

Unhelpful Mindsets

Why does the devil love to reinforce that perspective of us having to break through? Because, then the focus is on us having to do something to get to God, or to get God to hear us. He wants us to believe that God is remote, somewhere far off, possibly inaccessible and that even if he does hear us he may or may not answer our prayers. This has caused Christians much striving and worrying and in the end they have developed mindsets like...

- Am I praying the right way?
- Have I prayed long enough?
- What do I need to do to get breakthrough?
- What steps do I need to take? What keys do I need to find?
- Should I be fasting?
- Maybe I should pray an hour a day in tongues.
- I need to find out what the powers over my city are. That's why I'm not seeing a breakthrough.
- If God does answer I can't be sure what the answer will be - maybe "no", "not yet" or yes."

In our desire to please God and do it right, have we inadvertently made prayer harder than it needs to be?

Early Church prayers

Most of the prayers of the early church recorded in scripture deal with the extension of the Kingdom and the delivery of the Gospel with boldness and power. They also prayed for the furtherance of the ministry of the apostles and others. It was all about God's will being done and releasing heaven into earth.

As Christians today we pray things like – “God pour out your spirit in our generation. Send revival God, open the heavens and come presence yourself amongst us. God we want habitation not visitation. Lord do a new thing in the earth today, in our city today.” Basically - God do something. In other words we don't believe that what he has done already in Jesus is enough.

In Ephesians 1 Paul prays for the church to come into revelation of what Christ has done for them.

Eph 1:17-23 *“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And has put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fullness of him that fills all in all.”*

He has placed us far above all principalities and powers, given us the same power that raised Christ from the dead and put all things under our feet in him. Wow! We don't have to do anything to break through. Jesus already did it and when he did he established the church there with him.

When you compare that truth to the list of questions we can ask ourselves above, it shows that list to be a list of believed lies that has led to a Church that is held in a place of striving to please God. Most of us would be shocked to discover that we have been sucked in to believing so many lies about our prayer life. Yet we have.

Wants and needs prayer - in the New Testament

There is very little 'personal wants and needs' type prayer recorded in the New Testament. That doesn't mean that it didn't happen, it's just that it wasn't recorded.

Philippians 4:6 says *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer [worship prayer] and supplication [seeking, asking], with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”* (The brackets [] contain the Strongs meaning of the words.)

Our 'wants and needs' prayer can and should happen but it should be accompanied with worship and thanksgiving. Why? Because we understand that God has already taken care of

that area of our lives. Our understanding of that enables us to thank God in advance for things not yet received (Psa 50:23). It enables us to stand in faith knowing that the answer to our 'needs' prayers will never ever be 'no!' It is always "yes!" The Word is full of promises that show that he will provide all we need. Below are just some of them...

- He has already granted us everything we need for life and godliness. (2 Pet 1:3)
- God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory (Phil 4:19)
- Take no thought for what you will eat or drink, or wear...Your Father knows you need all these things...seek first the Kingdom ...and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matt 6:25 -33)
- When we pray we should believe that we have already received what we are praying for, and it will be granted to us. (Matt 11:24)
- For all the promises of God find their 'Yes' in him (2 Cor 1:20)

If 'granted' and 'yes' are the answers to all our 'needs' prayer then those prayers should definitely be full of worship, they should be thanksgiving-based and from faith, not fear, unbelief or pleading, which come from an orphan mindset. The orphan mindset continues to cause us to function from a place of uncertainty, of not knowing that we are loved and provided for by the best Father you could ever hope or dream for.

We don't pray to get close to God or to get him to do something. We pray because we are already close to him and in that place we share our hearts' concerns. Personal prayer, therefore, isn't a task or the means to an end; it's a part of a wonderful relationship.

New Covenant intercession is Throne Room intercession

Prayer is mentioned a few times in the New Testament, but if you do a word search for "intercession" the only record of it is in Hebrews and it deals with Jesus, ever living to make intercession for us. If you do a word search for "intercedes" you will find some instances of it in Romans 8, which have to do with the Spirit who intercedes for us, and all of the saints, according to the will of the Lord (v26,27), and with Jesus who, at the right hand of the Father, intercedes for us² (v34).

It would appear, then, that the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit initiate all 'intercession' under the New Covenant.

What is intercession? The Dictionary definition: "To go or pass between; to act between parties with a view to reconcile those who differ or contend; to interpose; to mediate or make intercession; mediation." (Websters)

Christ is our intercessor, our mediator; he stands in the gap between God and man as...

- **Intercessor** – Hebrews 7:24-28

- **Mediator** – 1 Timothy 2:5
- **Advocate** – 1 John 2:1

As far as the Church goes he is the head and we are the body. Scripture tells us that we are in him and he is in us (Rom 8:1; 1Cor 1:2,30; 1Cor 3:1). So any intercession that we do must be because we are in him and he is praying with us and through us. If we feel that we are called to a ministry of intercession then it can only be accomplished through an intimate partnership with the Holy Spirit. The Lord wants to teach us how to pray with the Spirit for the fulfillment of the will of the Father.

Our prayer and intercession comes from the place of knowing that we are in Christ and, because of that, it is Throne Room / Third Heaven generated. From that place we pray and decree his and Holy Spirit's heart and will into earth's situations. Jesus and Holy Spirit are the main intercessors and we co-operate with them by joining our intercession with theirs.

Intercession is not a gift, so it is not your gift. It is not mentioned in any of the lists of gifts in scripture, so you are not an intercessor – that is not your identity. Intercession is simply a tool that you use to get a job done, to release the Kingdom of Heaven into the earth. Some people will spend more time praying than others but that time spent does not say anything about your spirituality or your maturity. It is simply something the Lord has asked you to do with him.

Types of intercessors (according to some teaching) - Issues, List, Souls, Personal, Financial, Mercy, Crisis, Warfare, Worship, Government, People group and Prophetic. These are not who you are; don't box yourself or the Lord in. They are either your current assignment or how Holy Spirit is leading you to pray in your current assignment. And all should be throne room based.

How am I praying?

We need to ask ourselves, "Is my prayer life based on an Old Covenant understanding or a New Covenant one? Is my prayer life based on wrong beliefs or right ones? Do I pray as an unbelieving Christian or as a faith-filled believer?"

Here are some examples of Old Covenant understanding and some wrong beliefs in praying for others...

- **That we need to stand in the gap** (Ezek 22:30). Jesus is the mediator - he stood in the gap
- **That we need to pray and intercede so that God will forgive our sins and heal our land** (2 Chron 7:14) In Jesus they are forgiven – both our sins and the nations sins.
- **That we need to "Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage and the ends of the earth your possession."** (Psa 2:8). They are already our inheritance. Jesus has already done all that is needed - he has purchased their freedom. Now he rules over the earth, and because we are in him, we do too. Now we get to go and tell them that awesome good news, not just stay at home and pray.

- **That we need to pray long and hard in order for loved ones to be saved.** We think it will take a lot of our effort in prayer in order for Jesus to be able to do anything in regard to this. And when they aren't being saved we think "I haven't prayed enough."
- **That we need to heap up words** (Matt 6:7) or need to pray in a certain way.

On a personal level...

- **That we need to plead every day, or persistently, for our needs to be met** (Luke 11:5-8). We think that it is the amount of prayer that will move God's hand.
- **That we need to ask God's forgiveness for our sin, over and over again, every time we do something wrong** (Heb 9:26). Jesus has forgiven your every sin. All your sins were future sins when he did that. Definitely we need to recognize when we sin, confess that, apologise to him and thank him for his forgiveness but we don't need to beg forgiveness. You are already forgiven. In 1 John 1:9 which says "If we confess our sins he can be depended on to forgive us and cleanse us... John was addressing false teaching ³.
- **That we need to ask/petition for healing or deliverance** (Mark 7:25-30). It is yours to claim. You don't need to ask for it - it is his will that you are healed and delivered.
- **That we need to fast and pray in order to find God's will or to move his hand** (2 Chron 20:3,4) We think that our prayer will force God to do something (as if he doesn't already want to).
- **That we can't be sure that God will hear us and answer** – that maybe our sin has blocked God from hearing us (Isa 59:2). Our sins are forgiven - all of them (past, present and future). They no longer make a blockage to God hearing us, but our sins can still affect our relationship with the Lord. When we sin we tend to draw away from God and don't want to spend time with him. **So keep short accounts and stay in the place of relationship.** The Bible makes it clear that **"if we ask anything according to his will he hears us and if we know that he hears us we know we have what we have asked of him."** (1 John 5:14,15) **So then we need to know what his will is.** It is for us to have the provision of every need relating to life and godliness - healing (physical & emotional), salvation, deliverance and so much more.

God said in the Old Testament, *"I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach... but I found none"* (Ezek 22:30).

Does this still apply today? No, at least not in the way we that have traditionally seen it. That is an Old Covenant event. God was looking for someone to stand in the gap between him and the people so that they wouldn't be judged. And he did find someone - Jesus did that.

In Christ, God has reconciled the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusted to us the message of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:19). Christ became the mediator between God and mankind. He stood in the gap and he ever lives to make intercession! But we are not totally redundant. We get to co-operate with him through our prayers, decrees

and daily life in releasing the power and manifestation of the finished work of Christ into earth.

When we pray from a New Covenant perspective, we understand the following...

In praying for others...

- **That God has provided an eternal intercessor** and that in our prayer we are cooperating with him (Heb 7:24-28)
- **That he has already provided salvation for every person.** We don't need to plead with him to save our family members - to do so is to assume that he hasn't already provided salvation for them. They just need to receive what he has already done for them (Acts 26:17,18). We need to show them a true representation of him and share with them that God is good and that the good news really is good news, not an introduction into another form of bondage.
- **That he has judged and forgiven every sin, past, present and future,** so we do not need to be continually asking for forgiveness for our nation's sin, ancestor's sin etc. (Eph 1:4-7; Heb 9:26)
- **That healing of the land was included in Christ's payment.** He became our curse and broke every curse over us, so we now pray for the manifestation of the healing of our land (2 Chron 7:14).
- **That we can approach God boldly and confidently** (Heb 4:16) **knowing that we have the right to do so through Christ, and that we have been invited to do so.**
- **That the words we send forth will accomplish what we send them to do when we send them with intent** (Matt 21:21). That our words can be effective or ineffective (Matt 12:36 careless words; careless = words that are ineffective, unemployed, barren, idle, useless or lazy)

On a personal level...

- **That God has said "Yes, granted" to every need we will ever have** relating to life and godliness (Matt 6:25-33, 2 Pet 1:3)
- **That God has provided and said "Yes, granted" to our healing.** For us to be healed is his will! (1 Pet 2:24) and his time is now. In fact the Bible goes further and says we are healed.
- **That the Lord has judged and forgiven every sin of ours** - past, present and future so we do not need to be continually asking for forgiveness for our sin, our ancestors' sin etc. (Eph 1:4-7; Heb 9:26)
- **That we can know that he has heard us and that we have what we have asked of him** (1 John 5:14,15)

- **That we can approach him boldly and confidently** (Heb 4:16)
- **That our words, sent with intent, will accomplish what we send them to do.** (Matt 21:21, Matt 12:36)

When we truly understand what Christ has done it totally changes how we pray. There is no persistent begging here. There is only thankful hearts and words that correspond with that. We understand and believe what he has done and we pray accordingly.

Every promise of God has been made 'yes' and 'amen' (so be it!) in Christ (2 Cor 1:20).

What about 1 Thess 5:17, Paul's instruction to "pray continually"? Does it mean that we must pray 24 hours a day? It can't mean that, otherwise we would never eat, go to the bathroom, look after our kids etc. It means to be aware of our oneness and fellowship with the Lord, to be open to what is on his heart and to open our heart to him. It means to be in that place of listening for his prompting, to come into agreement with him and release heaven into earth by our prayers, our speech, our lives. It becomes not just something we do, a task, but a part of us.

Regarding praying continually, there is a huge 24 hour prayer movement happening around the world. In many ways it is good - it is teaching this generation the value of prayer. But I have some concerns with it, too. It is often very structured and has the potential to become quite legalistic, causing people to think that the form is what is crucial to its success. We need to be careful in the midst of it that we don't just package religion differently, in a new container.

Even those in the Old Covenant recognized that prayer is not just something we do, it is more like a state of being. David says in Psa 109:4 *"In return for my love they act as my accusers; But I am (in) prayer."* The original does not include the word IN – it literally says, "I – prayer," that is, I am all prayer; "I am prayer." He became prayer just as they became malice ⁴.

Prayer is not about human effort, it's about dependence. Even fervent prayer – *"The fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."* (James 5:16). Fervent prayer does not mean passionate, loud and aggressive, with much effort and straining. It simply means prayer that it is powerful in its effect.

Fervent = energo (Gk) – active, efficient. This is where we get our word energy. It is a powerful prayer that works! It performs the job. A more accurate rendering of the verse is, *"The mightily active and efficient prayer of a righteous man has great power as it is working."* (James 5:16).

New Covenant Prayer is prayer that recognizes what Christ has done in us and for us, and decrees and releases the full manifestation of that into the earthly realm with powerful, effective, working prayer.

Tongues

We said earlier that all intercession in the New Covenant is done through Jesus or Holy Spirit. Romans 8:26,27 says *"In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know*

how to pray as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God." So we see that Holy Spirit prays through us and for us.

Speaking in tongues is given as one of the signs that follow believers (Mark 16:17). This includes speaking in languages we have not learnt as well as heavenly tongues (1 Cor 13:1). In Jude 1:20 it tells us to build ourselves up in our faith by praying in the Holy Ghost. This is commonly understood to mean praying in tongues, as well as being led by the Spirit as we pray. Praying in tongues is a vital part of our New Covenant prayer life that cannot be underestimated. When we pray in tongues we utter mysteries and Holy Spirit prays through us. Therefore praying in tongues is a form of pure prayer where we will always pray according to the will of God.

Joseph Prince says this about praying in tongues... "Isn't it wonderful that God has put inside you the Holy Spirit who prays perfectly? He knows the heart of God and precisely what you need and he makes intercession for you because he loves you very much.

The Holy Spirit is like your lawyer or legal counselor. He knows what belongs to you legally. He knows what your blood-bought rights in Christ are. Best of all he knows exactly how to enforce them in your life.

Beloved, when you pray in tongues, you allow the Holy Spirit to pray perfect prayers through you. He pleads your case before God. He knows where you have gone wrong and what the root of the problem is. He also has the wisdom, solution and power to win your case. With the Holy Spirit on your side, you cannot but come out victorious!"

Spend time developing your tongues prayer life but don't neglect other forms of prayer. Pray with the Spirit and pray with the mind (1 Cor 14:14,15). Pray at all times in the Spirit – this includes tongues, both earthly & heavenly, and your native language (Eph 6:18). Don't mumble as if you are ashamed. Don't whisper because you are fearful that others may think that you're nuts. Let Holy Spirit have his way and as you do you will pray the will of God and be built up in your faith!

Activating Prayer

Holy Spirit, come and be the Spirit of wisdom and revelation to me today. Show me where I have believed wrong things about prayer. Reveal to me where my theology is faulty. Tear it down and replace it with truth and help me to then walk in the light of that truth. Renew my mind and my actions as a result of it. I choose to find my identity in you and not in what I do for you. I want to fully understand the reality of what you've done and for my prayer life to be highly effective. I want my prayers to work as they are supposed to. I want to see heaven released into earth and the effective, working results of that every time I pray.

For further study

You've already Got It – Andrew Wommack

1 - list taken from Patricia Kings "Third Heaven Intercession manual"

2 - Rom 8:34 Wesley commentary - Presenting there his obedience, his sufferings, his prayers, and our prayers sanctified through him.

3 - Vincents Word Studies - The peculiar form of error combated in the Epistle is Docetic and Cerinthian. In this teaching sin and atonement have no place. Christ came into the world, not to redeem it by the remission of sins, but to illuminate a few choice intellects with philosophy.

4 - (Barnes, JFB commentaries)

RELEASING HEAVEN INTO EARTH

3

WHAT IS THRONE ROOM PRAYER/INTERCESSION

In the last chapter we discovered that in the New Covenant, intercession is done by Jesus and Holy Spirit, with us co-operating with them in it. As we saw before, there are many different types of prayer recorded in the Word and as we pray we need to be open to the Lord praying through us using any of them.

We also found that prayer/intercession has its origin in the Throne Room. So let's look closer now at praying from a Throne Room / Third Heaven perspective.

The term Throne Room represents the Throne Room of the Godhead or the Throne of God in Heaven. Let's look at the term Third Heaven. It is where the Throne Room is situated. It is a literal place. It exists in the spiritual realm and is the abode of God. It is also referred to as 'paradise' in scripture. This understanding comes from Paul's statement in 2 Cor 12:2 but also from many other verses (Psa 11:4; 103:19; Isa 6:1; 66:1; Ezek 1:26; 10:1; Matt 25:31; Luke 23:43; 2 Cor 12:4; Heb 4:16; Rev 2:7) There are many more verses about the Throne of God and Heaven, but these will give you some to go on with.

The theological understanding about realms/spheres/levels of heaven is that there are three levels of heaven – the 1st, 2nd and 3rd heavens. Some people would say that there are many more levels but scripture does not tell us that, and it is safer to stick with what scripture does tell us. The common understanding is that the...

1st Heaven - the earthly realm, our natural sky etc.

2nd Heaven – an intermediate realm where the angelic and demonic operate.

3rd Heaven - the throne room region, heaven as people have experienced it, paradise.

New Creation realities

We need to understand some new creation realities in order to understand this prayer perspective.

When a person comes to Christ they shift their citizenship from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of Heaven. But more than that, they become a new creation and the old is dead, according to 2 Cor 5:17. When that happens the Word says that they are 'in Christ' and Christ is in them (Rom 8:1; 1 Cor 1:2,30; 1 Cor 3:1).

We are made 'intimate' with God through Christ. Intimacy with Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit is not a feeling; it is a legal positioning and a state of being. We are now one with Christ – 'in him'. Therefore we are as intimate with Jesus and the Father as we can ever be. You can't get any closer than being 'in Christ' and if he and the Father are one then you are also 'in the Father'. But we can and should expect to discover more of the wonder of who he is. We can expect to become more and more aware of him and to know his heart and his character. We can and should expect to become more aware of his presence in and around our lives, but we cannot become more intimate than we already are. Our intimacy is a settled, indisputable fact.

The Word further says that we are then "seated with Christ in heavenly places." (Eph 2:6). Either that is just a concept, a nice idea, or it is somehow reality in the spirit. If it is just a concept then it has no bearing on our day-to-day life. If, however, it is a spiritual reality then we can and should expect to understand and experience that reality. Physically we may or may not experience it yet, but our spirit knows this reality and, according to scripture, it is a spiritual reality, not just a concept.

Remember too that it's okay to not understand everything, to not have it all worked out in your mind. Some mysteries are just that, mysteries!

If it is true then we need to realize that heaven isn't waiting for us to go there when we die, it is waiting for us to realize that when Jesus went there 2000 years ago he opened the way for us. We were **positioned** there the moment we accepted Christ. We are now citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven and we can expect to experience its realities now.

So as Christians alive today we need to learn to live from heaven to earth - remember that we talked earlier about being created to live from two realms simultaneously.

Greek thinking, Hebrew thinking

Western Christianity developed under, and is dominated by, a Greek mindset, which says that

- You know something when you understand it as a concept.

But the Hebrew mindset, which is the mindset that the scriptures were written from, says that

- You know something only when you know it both by experience and as a concept.

So according to the Hebrew mindset, we can know that we are 'seated in heavenly places' both experientially and conceptually.

Our spirit has 24 hour a day access to the throne room because of our position of being in Christ and being seated with him in heavenly places. Therefore we can and should expect to be able to access by revelation the things that are happening there, and to know the mind of Christ, which the Word says we have (1 Cor 2:16).

So if our spirit has 24 hour a day revelation access to the heart and mind of Christ then we must come to the place of accessing that when we pray, and praying from the understanding and revelation that Christ gives us.

We must live from that Throne Room perspective, seeing what the Father is doing and hearing what the Father is saying, so that we can speak on his behalf into the earth. This is what it means to pray from a Third Heaven perspective.

Jesus lived from a heavenly perspective while he was here on earth. My understanding from Scripture is that he saw into the heavenly realms, ascended there and spoke out what he saw there. (John 3:13; 5:19; 12:49,50). It was part of the key to his power-filled life while on earth. Then after his resurrection he ascended and is now seated at the right hand of the Father, above all powers and principalities. (Eph 1:21,22; 1 Pet 3:22)

We are seated with him in heavenly places. If we have died with him and have been raised again with him, as scripture tells us in Rom 6:4; Col 2:12; Eph2:6, then we, too, can definitely see, pray and decree from that Third Heaven perspective.

Looking at things with new eyes¹

We need to learn to see everything with New Covenant eyes. For example, the conflicts we face - if we take God's word, and our spiritual reality of being seated with him in heavenly places, as fact then even our conflicts will look different...

- Every issue or conflict we face is 'in Christ' because that's where we are. (Rom 8:1)
- God has an outcome assigned to that issue that He is saying "Yes" to. (1 John 5:14)
- Every situation is somehow rigged for our benefit – we are the winner right from the beginning. We go into circumstances in victory, working towards greater victory. We pray from victory, not for victory! Christ is our divine advantage. He always leads us in triumph. (2 Cor 2:14)
- We were created to live above things (Eph 1:21), not to fight to get out of them. In Christ we never start with a deficit in our thinking (because we have the mind of Christ – 1 Cor 2:16). We start with the divine outcome that the Lord promises.
- The outcome gives you your starting place. And your starting place guarantees your outcome e.g. if you start out in the old nature's mindset you'll end up in the old nature. (Gal 3:3)
- *"Thanks be to God who always causes us to triumph in Christ Jesus"* is your starting place! (2 Cor 2:14)

Graham Cooke says, "The outcome tells you the mindset that you need, it tells you the attitude that's appropriate, it tells you the stance you should take, it tells you the approach you should have from your present to your future."

Favour is a divine advantage that guarantees the outcome of our prayers. *"For whoever finds me finds life and draws forth and obtains favor from the Lord."* (Prov 8:35)

Because of that favour there is no reason to fear, to be worried etc. Those things are inappropriate behavior. When you introduce worry you are saying, "I don't believe God's promise. I don't believe the outcome."

1 – The section "Looking at things with new eyes" was based on teaching by Graham Cooke

RELEASING HEAVEN INTO EARTH

4

WHERE DO WE FIT – UNDERSTANDING OUR AUTHORITY

In Genesis it is recorded that God made mankind, Adam & Eve, and gave them joint custody and dominion over the earth (Gen 1:26-28). They handed it over to the devil with their disobedience and sin. That gave the devil legal right to rule in the earthly realm. So Christ came, took our place as a man, paid the penalty for that sin, and won back the legal right to rule and gave mankind the authority to do so in him.

- Jesus, as man's representative, triumphed over Satan at the cross, snatched back the keys of death and hell, disarmed the principalities and powers, and ascended to sit in the place of authority, above every ruler and power (Eph 1:20, 22).
- Mankind, in relationship with Christ, was also lifted to that place of authority, and was seated with Christ in the heavenly places (Eph 2:6).
- Because of that, Christians now rule through Christ from a heavenly position of governmental authority. The principalities and powers are beneath our feet, as we are one with Christ and seated with him in that place of authority (Eph 2:6)
- We have been made Kings and Priests (1 Pet 2:9; Rev 1:6; 5:10), been given authority over the demons and sickness (Matt 28:18-20; Luke 10:19) and been granted incredible prayer power (John 14:13,14; James 5:16)

Christ has won a decisive everlasting victory over Satan. We need to understand this in order to pray rightly. Let's look at what that victory means.

"And having spoiled (disarmed) principalities and powers, he (Christ) made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it." (Col 2:15)

- **And having spoiled** – The enemy has been plundered as a victorious army does a conquered country. Paul uses military terms here, and the meaning is that Christ has completely subdued our enemies by his death. Not partially but completely! A complete victory was achieved by his death, so that everything is now in subjection to him, and we have nothing to fear.
- **Principalities and powers** – The "principalities and powers" referred to here are the

previously intimidating, menacing enemies that have held mankind in subjection, and prevented us serving God (Eph 1:21; 6:12). Paul refers here to the devil and his ranks of fallen, evil spirits, which had taken dominion over the world (John 12:31; Eph 2:2).

The Saviour, by his death, took back the dominion from them. There is nothing to fear if we are in Christ, because he has defeated and disarmed the devil and his principalities and powers. Their legal right to rule or have dominion is broken.

While the devil's legal right to rule and his authority have been stripped from him, he does still have some power that he uses against mankind. This starts like any bully's show of power – it is a show of power based on intimidation, bravado, bluff and lies. But if people believe him and give him right of access to their lives then they hand over some of their power to him, which he then uses against them.

A New Head Principality

If you are concerned about the principalities and powers and which ones rule where now, consider this verse about Jesus. I have used a few different translations so that you can get a better picture of what scripture is saying.

Col 2:10

"The head of all principality and power." (KJV)¹

"The fountain head from which all dominion and power proceeds." (Knox)¹

"The authority over all authorities, and the supreme power over all powers." (PHI)¹

"He is the highest ruler over every other power." (TAY)¹

Jesus is the highest power and Holy Spirit is the ruling spirit, wherever you are. Any others are simply usurpers who have no right to rule.

Ambassadors of Heaven

We are God's representatives, ambassadors for Christ on the earth (2 Cor 5:20). We get to say (in conjunction with what we hear from God) what is allowed and not allowed to function and happen here in the earthly realm. The Church has been slow to understand and believe this.

The Church is moving out of a season where we have fought from a position of trying to break through to heaven from earth, into that of knowing that we are seated with Christ and praying and decreeing out of that position. This is what we call Throne Room / Third Heaven intercession. It is really vital for all of us to realize the change that is happening at the moment and to move with God into that change.

- Throne Room / Third Heaven intercession is apostolic and governmental.
- We have been shifted from supplicants who had to petition God in order for anything to get done, into those who have dominion and rule through Christ over the earthly and heavenly realms of the first and second heavens.

- We are no longer orphans but joint heirs with Christ (Rom 8:17). He has made us Kings and Priests (Rev 5).
- We must learn to function from the Third Heaven, to work together with Jesus and the angelic realms to see the purposes of God released into the earth.
- We know that we are seated with Christ in heavenly places and therefore we have 24 hour a day access to what is happening around the throne of God.
- Because God gave the earth to mankind through Christ he wants people who will listen to him, come into agreement with his will and his heart, and decree things so that God can then establish them (Job 22:28).

Let's be those people! But let's also remember that it is not enough just to pray for peoples' release from the powers of darkness. We must also share the truth with them, because scripture tells us that it is the Truth that will set them free from the devil's lies and influence, not just the fact that we have prevailed against the devil in prayer. The two must go hand in hand.

Translations

KJV – King James Version (1611)

Knox – Knox New Testament Ronald Knox (1945)

PHI – New Testament – J B Philips (1962)

TAY – Living Letters – the paraphrased epistles - Kenneth Taylor (1962)

RELEASING HEAVEN INTO EARTH

RELEASING HEAVEN INTO EARTH

5

REPOSITIONING OUR PRAYER ALTARS

There is a shift happening in intercession that we need to be aware of so that we can work with God in it. We are in the midst of a global reformation of Christianity and much of our theology is being challenged and changed - by God.

God is asking his people to reposition their prayer altars. He is calling his church to fully realize their position in Christ, not only as a theological truth, but also as a literal position of authority from which to live and pray. We are being asked to take our prayer altars to the throne of God and there begin to pray the will of God into existence upon the earth.

Our new position

Paul laid out for us this positioning in Ephesians 1:19-23 "I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else - not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the Church. And the Church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself."

Jesus is seated far above the upheaval and change that is taking place on the earth. When we really know this and know that we are also seated there, far above the upheaval and change, we can access that reality. When we do we will see with the eyes of faith and begin to pray into existence what seems impossible in the natural realm

Paul went on to tell us what the positioning of Jesus means for us. In Ephesians 2:6 Paul said, "In our union with Christ Jesus he raised us up with him to rule with him in the heavenly world." (GNB)

"And has raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus." (KJV)

"God raised us from death to life with Christ Jesus, and he has given us a place beside Christ in heaven." (CEV)

We cannot pray with power, confidence and authority if our vision is filled with only what we see taking place around us. Our prayers must be created and released from the perspective of heaven.

What does prayer from the Throne Room look like?

Let's look at that Scripture from Ephesians 1 to see what Throne Room prayer looks like:

- Throne Room prayer has resurrection authority (Christ's authority)
- It comes from the place of seated authority - seated in heavenly places with Christ. Seated authority also means seated in rest.
- It is birthed in a place far above the turmoil (it is birthed from Christ) and is not influenced by the confusion, mayhem or uncertainty of the world.
- This kind of prayer flows from headship. Christ is the head of the church.
- These prayers do not struggle in human effort to get through to God. We are already in his presence and are now in Christ.
- These prayers are never judgmental, they are always redemptive in purpose and power. If we have known the transforming touch of the Father's love, then redemptive love is the fruit that will come of it. But if our prayers are judgmental, it is because we either have not known the transforming of our minds, the life-changing reality of that love, or we are praying from an Old Covenant perspective.
- These prayers are initiated in heaven and release power into earth. They are not from earth to heaven. They release the will of the Father into earth from that place of seated authority in Christ.
- It is prayer from the place of faith, not the place of pleading. We know what he has promised and we get to have the faith of God - his supreme confidence in what he can accomplish.
- It is prayer and decree from above the powers of darkness, that sees the enemy activity from God's perspective and deals with it accordingly, then speaks and releases the will of God into those situations. When you see the devil and his minions from God's perspective you will not fear them.

Third Heaven intercession is really all about taking our seat in heavenly places in Christ, seeing what God is saying and doing and then coming into agreement with him and decreeing from that perspective and releasing heaven into earth by our words and our actions.

Prayer from four perspectives

When we pray we either pray from an earthly perspective or from a heavenly perspective. Within that, we can pray or decree from four positions – a place of ignorant prayer, unbelief, fear or faith.

- A. **When we pray from a place of ignorance** we pray things that are un-thought through, ill considered and mostly ineffective.

Examples of ill-considered or ignorant prayer

- We continue to plead for God to rend the heavens and come down... he did already.
- We ask for an open heaven... Jesus opened it and it's never been shut since.
- We pray for more of God... we have the fullness of God living in us.
- We ask for extra anointing and more power... all the power of Christ is within us.
- We believe that we have to pray for ages (months/years) and fill the bowls in heaven so that they can be tipped back out... nowhere does scripture say this is what has to happen.

We think that our persistence in prayer releases the provision. We tend to take that from the verse about the persistent widow in Luke 18:1-8. We definitely should persist in prayer until we feel the release of what we are praying for, but it isn't our persistence that releases the answer - it's our praying in faith that does. This passage is also sometimes used as a justification for why we don't yet see an answer, ie "I obviously haven't prayed enough yet," or "I have to pray more/fast more" etc

So much of what we pray can actually be unproductive and unnecessary prayer. Think about some of the things that you have prayed and ask yourself if they are actually based on scriptural truth.

Because so many of us still live our lives from an Old Covenant understanding in many ways we believe we have to petition and plead with God in order to get anything done.

Do you want to know why God doesn't answer half your prayers – it's because you are asking for stuff you've already been given! If I told you I had bought you an ice cream and that I'd put it in the fridge for you it would be inappropriate for you then to ask me if you can have an ice cream. The appropriate thing to do is to say thank-you, get it from the fridge and eat it before it melts.

But the enemy wants you to disbelieve what Christ has done so that you do things to earn approval, or because religion tells you that you have to etc.

- B. **When we pray from a place of unbelief** we come into agreement with the devil and his perspective about the situation. We will ask God for help, hoping that he will help,

but all the time not really believing that he will. Our prayer may even sound good on the outside but at its heart may be unbelief. Or the statements that come from our mouth will actually agree more with the devil and his plans for the situation and it may sound something like this...

"God, I'm not even sure if you'll help me. This situation is so big I can't see how you can make it happen, but if you could see your way to help I'd be grateful. Your word says that you will hear me and help but I really haven't seen much evidence of that, so maybe this time will be no different. Oh what's the point in even praying – I might as well just try and work it out myself."

- C. **When we pray from fear** we enlist the help of God but in behind that prayer is a negative-based hope. We hope that God will hear us and do something but we are unsure whether He really will. So our prayers will be ones of fear and worldly hope, not faith. Prayers like...

"God this situation is so big and I don't know how you are going to do it but I hope and pray you will come through God, because if you don't I'm sunk. We'll forfeit our payments and end up losing what we've worked so hard for. God please come through, I'm desperate here."

- D. **When we pray from a position of faith** we pray from truth and revelation - knowing that his Word is true and that he will perform those things we ask him for. We pray, coming into agreement with his heart and will for the situation, and release his will through words and decrees, becoming the expression of the voice of God in that situation. When we pray like that, God says that he will answer and establish what we pray and decree (Isa 44:26).

We know that our prayers will be answered because we know that we pray and decree God's will and heart for the situation (1John 5:14) and his Word never returns to him void without accomplishing what he sends it to do (Isaiah 55:11) So we pray something like this...

"Father I have a need (name it) and I thank you that you have said that you will provide every need according to your riches in glory. You have already granted to me everything pertaining to life and godliness so I draw on that provision now. You have said that if I pray according to your will you will give me what I pray for and your will is already made clear in your Word – the answer is yes! Provision granted! I thank you for it and command that provision to come from the eternal realm into the earthly realm now in Jesus name. I thank you in advance for it even before it manifests in this realm, I see it, I believe it, I receive it! I trust you for you are trustworthy. I celebrate it, I believe and therefore I decree - I have what I have asked for according to your Word and your nature. You are not a liar so I can rest in the reality of that provision manifesting. Thank you Lord!"

We pray with authority until we feel the release from God, until we know that the answer is on its way and that we have what we have been praying for. Then at that point our decrees must become ones of confessing by faith the spiritual reality of that answer, while we wait for it to manifest in the natural realm.

Does that mean that all types of prayer other than Throne Room / Third Heaven intercession are obsolete, or that God doesn't honour those? Of course not. I believe that God will work with our level of understanding; that he hears the prayers of his people who pray in faith, and in his graciousness he wants to answer us. But we must understand that there is a better way to pray - that is, to pray from the mind of Christ who is always in the will of the Father. New Covenant prayer and intercession is Throne Room initiated and prayed from that place and perspective.

Some things to keep in mind as we pray...

- A. **The responsibility for the answer to prayer is not ours to carry.** Sometimes we can think that our prayer isn't being answered because we didn't pray right or long enough or for some other reason. We cannot cause the answer to come by carrying that weight. That responsibility is the Lord's and we should not attempt to carry it.
- B. **The burden that we carry is simply that of obedience and co-operation with God.** That is all. If we do that, we have done our part. The answering and result of prayer is up to God - that is his responsibility. We need to know how to do our part and then give the rest back to the Lord.
- C. **Our intercession should not leave us feeling burdened or filled with grief.** God isn't and he sees those situations even more clearly than we do. He is filled with joy and peace because he knows who he is and who he wants to be in those situations. Therefore our intercession should leave us joyful and full of peace, and be done from the place of rest. When we take on Christ's yoke it is easy and his burden is light (Matt 11:30)

When we know these things it takes care of the striving and performance mentality that can unconsciously try to wrap around our faith and interfere with our prayer focus. Performance mentality will cause us to do things God has not called us to do. When that happens we move out of our place of rest and into striving and then we feel that the results are up to us.

Remember, your identity can never be wrapped up in what you do. You are not "an intercessor". Intercession is simply a tool that God has given you to get a job done, it is not who you are. Intercession is not recorded anywhere as one of the gifts. It is the responsibility of every New Covenant priest to pray and intercede in Christ. In the New Covenant we are all called to pray and allow Holy Spirit to intercede for us and through us.

Mysteries wait to be revealed

There are mysteries of prayer being revealed in this season and while we don't yet have the full revelation and understanding of them we can begin to take steps into them as God leads us. I believe God is calling us to know the times and seasons like the Sons of Issachar (1 Chron 12:32), to intercede and walk according to what we see from our heavenly perspective and from having the mind of Christ (1 Cor 2:16).

I was listening to Graham Cooke teach a while ago and in the middle of that teaching he gave a wonderful description of New Covenant/Third Heaven intercession.

"Third heaven intercession takes us into the place, like Isaiah, where through our worship, listening and positioning we overhear the conversation of heaven. In Isaiah 6, Isaiah finds himself caught up into a heavenly vision and he overhears a conversation between God and some others where God says "who shall I send?" Isaiah answers – he joins in the conversation (the intercession happening there) and in that joining in, and out of that place, Isaiah becomes part of the intercession and part of the answer. In Third Heaven intercession God gives us permission to enter the throne room, hear and join in the dialogue between God and Jesus there."

He continued on to say, "We pray with God, not towards Him - with the answer, not to try and find one, then we join with Jesus and the Holy Spirit (who intercede for us and through us) as part of a three fold cord" and we give voice here on earth to the answer to those prayers, to what God is decreeing in heaven.

Let the reality of heaven fill you

God issued an invitation to John in Revelation – "Come up here". He didn't say "John, I'm going to bring you up." He didn't say, "John, I'm going to lift you up by your hair." He said, "John, come up here." There had to be within John the capability to respond and to go up. Within us, too, is that capability and God gives us the same kind of invitation in Hebrews 4:16 when he says "...come boldly to the throne of grace."

"How do we ascend?" you might be asking about now. Let me start with the foundation from which we ascend. Like everything in the Christian walk we must believe and access it by faith (Mark 11:24, Heb 11:1,6). Patricia King says "Faith is the connector to Heavenly Glory". While that might seem a simplistic answer it is nevertheless true. It is already done; we are already positioned there – seated with Christ in heavenly places. Whether we see or feel that reality is in some ways irrelevant – it doesn't change the truth of it. We need to believe, receive it by faith and then walk in the reality of it. We don't have to understand everything!

Because of that mysterious reality that we are seated with him in heavenly places our spirit therefore has 24 hour a day access to what is happening there. Our spirit is able to operate in more than one place at the same time. While our spirit operates in the heavenly realm and we have that access we are not always aware of what is happening there. That is why we need to learn how to access that reality.

There are basically two types of ascending –

- **Ascending in your spirit** - Ascending in your spirit happens when you see, hear or experience the reality of heaven in vision form. This usually comes in different forms - anything from a faint impression in your heart or mind to open eyed visions. Often you will be aware that you are still on earth and may even hear the things that are happening around you. But in your spirit, seen through the eyes of your heart/mind, you may see or feel yourself experiencing the reality of heavenly places. You may see yourself interacting with Jesus or angelic beings, you may see yourself in the river of God and feel the water running over and through you or any manner of other experiences; it is important to realize that this is not just your imagination making

something up - this is a spiritual reality that you are seeing and experiencing. This type of ascended reality may not always feel as real as an out of body experience but it is no less real and can impact you as deeply as the other sort of experience.

- **Ascending by sovereign act** - the type that Paul experienced when he said that he didn't know whether he was in the body or out of it (2 Cor 12:2). This usually is more real feeling and often the person will not be able to tell if they are in their body or out of it. They will usually be totally unaware of the natural realm or the people around them in the natural realm.

Remember, revelation is revelation no matter what form it comes in and all revelation from God carries the power to do what God sends it to do.

Many of my heavenly experiences have come in the form of seeing or operating in the spirit, but they have all brought scriptural truths alive and profoundly impacted and changed my life causing me to fall more in love with Jesus than ever. I also cover this a bit more in chapters 6 and 8. Chapter 6 has some teaching on discerning between what is real and what is symbolic; chapter 8 is about seeing and hearing from God and also carries some stuff on levels and types of revelation.

Do ask Holy Spirit to open your eyes to see the reality of heaven and to take you into experiences of it. He longs to do so and all heaven waits for you there. Holy Spirit is our teacher, guide and helper; he leads and guides us into all truth (John 14:16,17; 15:26; 16:12-15; Romans 8:26,27). It is he who leads us in heavenly experiences; we do not access them by ourselves in our own strength.

What is the purpose for accessing heaven's realities? It is so that we, like Jesus, can say, "I only do the things I see my Father do; and your will be done in earth as it is in heaven."

In the Glory Schools that we have taught there have been a few instances now where people have had similar experiences to each other. Here is one student's experience (this particular lady had many experiences during the Glory School). In one experience she went to the throne room. She said it was vast and packed with angelic beings. As she walked in they all erupted into cheering, shouting "She's here, she's finally here!" Then Jesus got off the throne and ran toward her, while the angels kept cheering "She's here, she's finally here."

We were all moved powerfully as the revelation washed over each of us that all of heaven has waited, not for us to enter there when we are dead, but to enter there while we are still alive! Wow, what a revelation!

For further study –

The Glory School CD set and manual – Patricia King
available from our web-store at www.extremepropheticnz.com

RELEASING HEAVEN INTO EARTH

6

UNDERSTANDING WARFARE FROM A NEW COVENANT PERSPECTIVE

If Jesus has done it, if it is finished and the power of death and hell has been broken, if Jesus disarmed the principalities and powers then why are we fighting? Is fighting still necessary? Don't we just sit back and rest now? Do we have to do anything?

In coming to grips with what New Covenant prayer/intercession really is some may think that because Jesus has done it all then we no longer have to do anything at all - we can just sit back and rest now.

We have entered a place of rest but rest does not necessarily mean inactivity or lack of conflict. **As long as the devil is still around there will always be conflict.** We can, however, know a place of rest in the midst of our enemies. The reason why we can know that place of rest is because **we know without a doubt that Jesus has already won;** the devil is defeated and disarmed.

So if there is still conflict then we need to ask ourselves, "What sort is it? What do we face and where is that conflict?"

We face...

- **Personal conflicts** - Personal ones obviously relate to our personal life.
- **Non-personal conflicts** - Non-personal confrontations are ones where we get to take authority over the enemy so that others may be set free.

Liar, liar...

Jesus tells us that the devil is a liar and that his purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. Jesus came to give us life in all its fullness and he has done that. He has given us everything we need to live a healthy, happy, fulfilled, godly life. But the devil will contest that and if we give in to his suggestions, innuendos and lies we will hand over to him our treasures. And that is all that the enemy has - innuendos, suggestions and lies. He has no other weapons – he has been disarmed!

Joseph Prince says this, "The truth is that the devil cannot enforce anything in your life if he cannot persuade your heart. And your heart cannot be persuaded if it is 'steadfast in the faith', if it is established in righteousness." You have been made righteous, you know, but you must establish yourself strongly in that righteousness. You must know whom Christ has made you and what his death and resurrection have procured for you. The Word says in 2 Cor 5:21 *"Christ was without sin, but for our sake God made him share our sin in order that in union with him we might share the righteousness of God."* (GNB)

The devil has been disarmed. His authority has been stripped from him. He is not a roaring lion (1 Pet 5:8) but he does go around impersonating one, trying to get people to believe the impersonation and succumb to his lies and bluff. Notice also in that verse that the extent of the devil's ability and right to devour us is part of the bluff that he tries to pull off. If we are in Christ he has no right to do so, however if we believe that bluff we then give him power over us and the right to afflict us.

To use a simple picture here – in the movie The Wizard of Oz, Dorothy and the others go to find the powerful wizard of Oz. He is pictured as someone powerful, strong and mighty, but when they find him they discover it is all a hoax. He is in reality small and powerless. It was only his amplified voice that held people captive to him. Hmmm, sounds familiar - a defeated, powerless foe with an amplified voice who tries to show himself as more powerful than he is!

Seated authority

We are seated with Christ in heavenly places so that means we are in a place of seated authority. Seated authority is a place of rest and peace, a place of knowing who you are and what authority you have.

- Seated authority means that you have peace or are at rest in the midst of the battle.
- Intercession from a place of rest does not mean that we will not face contending and warfare at times.
- Prayer from that place of rest does not mean that all our prayer becomes quiet and reflective or that the decrees that we speak out, and the prayers that we pray in the heavenly realm, will all be done with a quiet voice. We must understand that while our authority resides in knowing and understanding what Christ has done for us, and who we are in Christ, there are times when we will need to release that authority vocally in a strong way.
- Our authority is released through our voice in the words that we choose and in the tone in which we speak them, and while it is true that we do not need to shout to show that we have authority, we can, and must at times, speak authoritatively.

Warfare - and other terms we use

Let's just look at the words 'fight', 'battle' and 'warfare' for a moment. These are words that we use a lot as Christians and they bring to mind definite images, which may or may not be accurate depictions of what is happening. They bring to mind images of warriors with swords,

physical fights, images of people in prayer shouting and waving their hands around doing symbolic or prophetic acts or angels fighting with demons.

We usually use these words because of specific verses that use them like Eph 6:12, 1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 4:7; Rev 12:7 etc. Is the warfare mentioned in these verses, or what we see in our minds eye when we hear those words, actually our reality in the New Covenant or is this maybe religious tradition and/or visual symbolism?

The Word is clear that the weapons that we use are not carnal, they are spiritual in origin and power (2 Cor 10:4) As we know that they are not swords or other literal weapons, they are symbolic of our real weapons - the power of the Blood, the name of Christ, the Word of God, the word of our testimony, worship and the power of God. So any actual waving swords or doing symbolic acts is just that - symbolic of the encounter with the enemy. They have no power in themselves, although we sometimes mistakenly believe they do. The power comes in the obedience – by faith doing what God asks us to do, which releases the power of heaven into the situation we are praying for.

Warfare from a New Covenant perspective

A friend of ours once posed this question - "If the joy of the Lord is our strength, what should our warfare look and sound like?"

New Covenant/Throne Room intercession carries the authority of Christ himself and, as such, is full of peace, rest, joy and laughter, because he is those things. He is joy, peace and rest. It is not heavy or burdensome, nor does it leave you feeling wrung out, tired or full of grief. Why? For two main reasons:

1. **It is not just you doing the intercession but Jesus and the Holy Spirit interceding with and through you.**
2. Because of that, we see and war from their perspective – the battle is already won.

However, when prayer or intercession is approached from an Old Covenant viewpoint it will become legalistic, formulaic, and possibly fueled by the religious spirit that brings people back under law and takes them away from living under grace. This type of prayer carries a burden that is not meant to be carried. It is often tiring, and can leave you feeling wrung out and heavy. It certainly doesn't carry the yoke of Jesus (Matt 11:30), which is light and easy.

What we know makes all the difference

What we know makes an incredible difference to how we see and do things. Eric Heller said "Be careful how you interpret the world: It is like that." In other words our perceptions or what we know and believe will end up determining our reality. As Christians we are called to base what we know and believe on the truth contained in scripture. When it comes to prayer and intercession, this is our yardstick. What does the Bible really say about it?

When it comes to how we see the devil's ability to win in any conflict - our fight against the devil is not even really a fight and certainly not what we would call a fair fight. Christ has

indisputably won it and we get to share in and reinforce that victory every time the enemy tries to come against us.

Do the devil and the principalities have power over us?

- If we don't know that they really are defeated we will live as if they still have some right to afflict us, which they will take advantage of.
- If we deliberately sin we give them an entrance place to afflict us.
- But apart from those two things, if we are born again and living in the reality of God's glorious grace, they do not have any authority in our lives or any right to afflict us.
- If people are still living in the kingdom of darkness then, yes, powers of darkness do have a right to operate around their lives.

~~The devil loves to take advantage of our ignorance.~~ A great example here is – If you buy a house, you get given the title deed to that house. It now belongs to you. But in this example there is a squatter living there. Does he have a right to do that – no he does not! You have the right as owner to determine who inhabits your house. What the squatter is doing is illegal but it is not impossible. As Christians if we don't know what Christ has won for us we will let squatters take over where we should rule.

Christ has won

Scripture says in Eph 6:12 "We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities and rulers...." It is both an individual and a corporate fight that we are engaged in, but we must remember that Christ has already won. The devil is a defeated foe and we need to be reminded of that again. He has limited access and no authority and we get to plunder his kingdom as we come into agreement with what God is doing, and work with him to see the Kingdom of God released and established in the earth.

As we come into agreement with God, angelic beings are then released to do what God wants them to do. While we don't command the angels we can co-operate with God in releasing them to carry out their assignments.

Warfare is not about being paranoid and searching out demons etc. It is not about loud voices, waving banners, spilling oil on the ground and other symbolic acts per se, although Christ may ask you to do some of these. It is about taking territory and releasing heaven into earth. It is about coming into the reality of your inheritance and bringing others into theirs. When you see warfare the right way you see ground to be taken back and prophetic potential to be released in lives.

It's not about the demons; it's about what Christ has done. We don't do warfare to break through - we do it because we've already received the victory. We are plundering. Jesus did the work; we get to gather the plunder.

War in the second heaven

In the late 70's through to the 90's there was an awakening that happened – Christians came into a greater realization that there was an enemy and began to engage in spiritual warfare. This was a critical, God appointed, time of awakening.

However during those years, and even today, there was a lot of emphasis on battling principalities and powers and bringing down strongmen etc. While there is a definite need to reinforce and release the victory of what Christ has done, we are not given permission to go into the second heaven or into the bowels of the earth and engage with the powers there. This idea crept into the church somehow and quickly became an established belief. It was then taught as being fact and scores of books and teaching are around now that use spiritual experiences that may or may not be literal as their main support for this teaching.

From what I can see in scripture we are not called to go into the second heaven spiritual realm and fight principalities, powers and demonic hosts. Nowhere in scripture are we encouraged to do so. Certainly in the Old Covenant they did not do so. Any warfare done in the spiritual realms was done by the angels on assignment from God.

So why do some Christians feel that we need to do that? Mostly it's because some Christian leaders have taught that and we have accepted that the teaching is scripturally correct without searching the scriptures for ourselves. Or maybe it's because in a vision we saw ourselves fighting something and we took it literally, forgetting that visions are not always literal, they are often symbolic or metaphorical, like dreams.

Or maybe the thought of tackling principalities and powers appeals to our religious pride. It makes us feel important and makes us feel like we are doing something to help God. It insults our pride to think that we don't have to do anything to help God out, but there it is – God does not actually need our help. In his humility and grace he does give us the authority to represent him and has given the dominion and rule of the earth into Jesus's and our hands.

John Crowder says "All I know about spiritual warfare is – I won. Why? Because I am in Christ. It's not you, it's Christ in you who deals with the enemy."

Do we have to go through the second heaven to get to the third? My understanding is that we do not have to ascend through the second heaven to reach the third heaven. Why is this? **Because we are already seated in the third heaven, far above principalities and powers – that is our default, starting position!**

If God opens that realm of the second heaven to us in a vision, and shows us something happening there, it is for a specific reason and a specific situation. Even then I believe we will rarely, if ever, personally enter the second heaven and engage with the enemies there. I believe that that is part of the angels' function.

We must have his permission, his strategy and his timing to engage with anything there. Then we deal with it knowing it is Christ in us who does it, not us, and we deal with it from being positioned with Christ above the powers, not from below.

Learn to discern

In the things we see we must learn to discern between what is literal (either physical or spiritual reality) and what is symbolic. Both are possibilities for the things we see and experience. Our understanding of this is absolutely crucial for right understanding and interpretation of those things. In the realm of visions some of the things that we see will be literal and some will be symbolic.

- **Literal things are real and true.** They exist either in this realm or in the spiritual heavenly realm. They have substance and can be interacted with.
- **Symbolic things represent something** - but they are not actually that thing. They are symbols or metaphors of something. Visions and dreams are often highly symbolic.

A symbol or metaphor is, according to the dictionary on my computer:

Symbol – a thing that represents or stands for something else. Symbolic –

1. serving as a symbol : *a repeating design symbolic of eternity.*
2. significant purely in terms of what is being represented or implied : *the release of the dissident was an important symbolic gesture.*
3. involving the use of symbols or symbolism : *the symbolic meaning of motifs and designs.*

Metaphor –

1. a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable : "I had fallen through a trapdoor of depression," said Mark, who was fond of theatrical metaphors. "Her poetry depends on suggestion and metaphor."
2. a thing regarded as representative or symbolic of something else, especially something abstract : "The amounts of money being lost by the company were enough to make it a metaphor for an industry that was teetering."

Let me give you some examples:

If you have a vision where you see yourself getting on a bus and going through the solar systems then arriving at heaven, is the bus literal or symbolic of something? It is symbolic! You do not get on a bus to go to heaven. The bus is symbolic of the Holy Spirit's ability to transport you somewhere.

If you see yourself going into the depths of the earth to rescue people from caves in which they are trapped, is that literal or symbolic? It is symbolic. Why? Because the people are not literally under the earth in caves – it is a symbolic picture of them being held captive by the enemy in places of darkness. You need to then enquire of Holy Spirit, "What is the area of

darkness that has them captive?" Then you will know how to pray. God may show you a vision of you rescuing people as a symbolic picture, but it is just that - symbolic of the rescue that you will effect by your prayers and your authority.

If you see yourself walking with Jesus through a garden where the colours are intense and full of light, like you've never seen or experienced before. You see and hear yourself talking to the Lord. You hold a conversation with him and you feel the effect of that conversation on your heart and mind – is this literal or symbolic? It is probably literal (spiritual reality) in the heavenly realm. Our spirit is able to interact with the Lord, even when we are not fully aware that it is doing so. Our spirit has 24 hour a day access to that heavenly realm, as we now know.

What you focus on you empower

Many intercessors wonder why they come under such strong and continual attack from the enemy in their lives. Part of the reason for that is, I believe, that they focus too much on the demonic realm and what is happening in it. Their focus draws the attention of the enemy onto their lives and in turn empowers the attacks that they suffer as a result. You see, what you focus on you empower - you give it power to affect your life. It happens both positively and negatively. For example, if you focus on a dream that God has given you for your life you will empower that to come to reality. If you focus on your shortcomings you will empower them to manifest even more in your life. What you focus on you empower!

As Christians we live from above the demonic realm, not below it, trying to break through. Our life must be lived from that heavenly perspective and our prayers and decrees come from that place of seated authority.

Our part is to work with God and his angelic hosts, re-enforcing Christ's already-won victory and release heaven into earth. We are praying for the release and establishment of the realities of the Kingdom of Heaven here in the earthly realm and if the demonic forces get in the way or put up resistance to that, then we deal to them with the authority that Christ has given us.

Resist, Stand, Rest

So if we are not called to actually battle principalities, powers and wicked forces, then how do we fight as New Covenant believers?

- We are told that what we bind on earth will be bound in heaven (Matt18:18) but that doesn't refer to us going into the spiritual realms and engaging the enemy there. It simply states a fact – if we bind something here it will have effect there, too.
- We are told in scripture to "resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). That hardly sounds like a fight, does it? It sounds from that like we say "Boo" and the devil will run a mile. And that's what it is saying, but we don't believe it can be that simple because we have been conditioned to expect a big, hard, long, drawn out fight.

- Timothy was told to fight the good fight of faith (1 Tim 6:12) so that would appear to say that the good fight and the right way to fight is to use our faith – to trust God and believe him and his promises in the face of everything that the devil tries to throw at us.

God tells us to stand, in rest, and trust – but we think that that sounds so passive, like we aren't doing anything. But standing in rest and trust is doing something; it is doing something that is effective and very powerful indeed.

Francis Frangipane said, "One of the surest signs to the devil of his own downfall is when the saints of God have absolute peace in the midst of the battle."

Joseph Prince puts it like this, "While it is true that Satan tries to put sickness, depression and strife in our lives, God does not want us to fight the devil in long-drawn battles. God's Word tells us to rest instead. In the spiritual warfare passage in Ephesians 6, the word 'wrestle' appears only once, whereas the word 'stand' appears four times! This means that in spiritual warfare, we are to stand or rest in the victory of Christ. Jesus has already defeated the devil and put us on victory ground. And to help us stand our ground, he has given us his seven-piece armour. So stop trying to defeat a defeated foe. Just put on his armour and rest in his victory!"

Make no mistake, standing firm in the face of the enemy and staying in that place of rest is not passive and it is definitely not weak. It takes more courage to stand in rest and trust than to brandish weapons of our flesh.

From God's perspective

We recently had a friend share with us two situations that he was in where some people were struggling to see a person delivered from demonic bondages. They asked for his help, as the demons weren't leaving. In both these situations he felt the Lord tell him to laugh at the demons. He looked at the man being prayed for and began to laugh at the demons' attempts to hold him in that place of bondage. As he laughed he released on earth what God was doing in the heavens - laughing - and the demons immediately left and the man was free.

He saw from a heavenly perspective and his intercession came from that reality and manifested in earth. Did he plead with God to set the man free? Did he even command the demons to go? No, he stayed in the place of rest and trust and he laughed. In this case that laugh was one of both intercession and decree. That laugh carried all the weight and authority of heaven in it and the man was set free. Why? Because it was the strategy of God for those situations and his obedience released the power of God to work, resulting in the people being set gloriously free.

So often we see the enemy as having more power than he actually has and we engage him in a fight instead of standing our Christ-won ground. The devil doesn't mind fighting with us in a show of bravado and lies if a skirmish with his forces will keep us in the place of lies and deception and stop us realizing that he is already defeated. Christ soundly defeated the powers of darkness and the only power that they have now is the power that we give back

to them by believing their lies and by giving in to fear of them. Any power that they have in our lives comes from us believing them and surrendering what Christ won for us.

RELEASING HEAVEN INTO EARTH

7

THE FIGHT

What is our warfare?

Our warfare is not to break through to heaven to get God to hear us. Why, because Jesus broke through for us 2000 years ago. As a result of his breaking through we have been seated with him in heavenly places. On top of that scripture is clear that when we pray God does hear us (1 John 5:14,15).

Then what is our prayer life for on a personal level this side of the Cross? It is two-fold...

- **To bring what God has promised us from the eternal realm into the earthly realm** (Matt 6:10; Phil 4:19; Eph 1:3).
- **To stop the enemy stealing from us what God has given us.** John 6:39 says *"This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing."* As this was true of Jesus, so it is true of us. God does not want us to lose anything of what he has given us.

On a non-personal level it is ...

- **To see people, as individuals, set free from the devil's plans for their lives.**
- **To bring what God has promised the church corporately from the eternal realm into the earthly realm.**
- **To stop the enemy stealing from us what God has given us corporately.**

That is a huge paradigm shift, a mind transforming moment right there!

We have already been granted healing, on-going health, provision, daily needs – in other words everything pertaining to life and godliness. The devil will try and tell us that God isn't interested, that he doesn't want to give us what we need and that he won't come through, even if we do have faith. Wrong!

Part of the warfare we face comes when our decrees and our authority meet with resistance from the powers of darkness that are trying to stop them from manifesting in the natural realm (Dan 10:12-14). Our prayers and decrees can and do work with the angelic hosts and assist

the breakthrough of the answer to the earthly realm, so we need to keep our confession in line with the reality of God's Word.

That does not mean that we deny our facts or pretend that they do not exist, but that we decree from the realm that is higher than our facts, the realm of Truth, the eternal heavenly realm. Rom 4:19,20 tells us of Abraham who received a great promise from God. The NIV version says, "...he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead, but in regards to the promise he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God."

- Become aware of what position and perspective you are praying from and what decrees you are releasing.
- Check how you pray. Is it with uncertainty that makes you pray hesitantly and quietly, or is it with confidence in God that causes you to pray with authority?
- Do some study and ask God to give you a revelation of the authority you have and don't be afraid to use it.

The battle that we face

I read a billboard one time for a movie that said this – "All defeat comes from within". There is so much truth in that statement. Your victory or defeat in your circumstances will largely happen because of what happens in your mind. Because of this I believe that –

- Our warfare takes place first and foremost in the mind. The fight we have is a mental one.

We are not first and foremost battling circumstances or flesh and blood. It is a spiritual battle that is taking place.

Because of that, the decider in the battle and the most critical thing to ensure we walk in Christ's promised victory in our battle is –

- To stay in rest and rely on the finished work of Christ that he accomplished on the cross.

That is our biggest battle right there. If we stay in rest and stay in that place of reliance on Christ's finished work we will already be a huge way toward our promised victory. We accomplish this by staying in His peace. What is his peace – It is him – he is peace and he lives in peace he is not worried about our circumstances – he has a loving concern for us yes but he is not worried He has absolute assuredness - he knows who he is, he knows his power, he knows his strategy for our victory.

The other part that will ensure that victory is –

- Knowing Christ's strategy for each particular battle – that strategy will vary from battle to battle.

The mental fight happens because the enemy wants us to believe that we have not been made a new creation or received the power and fullness of God living inside us. He wants us to come out of our place of rest and trust, and into worry. Why does God call worry a sin? Because when we worry we have given up our state of rest, trust and faith. We have handed over one of our most precious Christ-won treasures to the enemy.

The devil also wants us to live out of our old mind, not our new one, and to come under law again, so we must learn to recognize his suggestions for what they are and counter them with the truth. You see it is truth, the Word and Christ himself, that sets us free, not what the church currently recognizes as 'spiritual warfare' that sets us free.

I know that some will say, "But... the devil is powerful and he is our biggest adversary." Yet we have given the enemy far more credit than he deserves. He is not as powerful, mighty, or to be feared, as we have been led to believe. He is beaten, disarmed and fearful that we will realize what Christ has won for us. His power has been stripped from him and all that he has are suggestions, bluff and fear.

The mind of Christ

We need to bring our thoughts into submission to Christ and learn to live from his mind. *"But we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah) and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart"* (1 Cor 2:16 Amp). That's part of what it means to renew our minds (Rom 12:2). That's what it means to become a partaker of the divine nature (2 Pet 1:4). That is why we are told to take captive every thought.... *"pulling down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ"* (2 Cor 10:5). We are to take captive and bring into submission every thought and every demonic attack that would question God's love, character, ability and power.

Our mind is being transformed, becoming more and more aware of the grace that we live under and the fact that we carry the mind of Christ and are being transformed from glory to glory into his image (2 Cor 3:18), becoming partakers of the divine nature (2 Pet 1:4).

Have the faith of God

We don't even approach prayer with our faith, but with his faith. We have not just faith in the Son of God, but the faith of the Son of God. It's his faith, it's his victory. Gal 2:20 *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."*

Wow, we get to have the faith of Jesus – his supreme confidence in his ability to accomplish the task. Why ever would we want to function just out of our own earthly faith?

There is a difference between earthly faith and Kingdom faith. Earthly faith is founded in our natural mind's ability to reason, believe and trust. For example we know, because of how chairs are made, that the one we want to sit on will probably be strong enough to hold us. We put our faith in the craftsman's ability and the law of physics. Kingdom faith, though, is different. It is not based on our natural mind's ability to reason and trust; it is based on the

reality of who God is, his ability, his character, his faith. We get to tap into and work out of his faith. That's what Kingdom faith is, it's the faith of God himself and we are partakers in it and have been given the full measure of it.

Above and not beneath

We are above the principalities and powers. In one sense we should not have to fight something that is already under our feet in the position of a defeated foe, and that is already disarmed. But sometimes we give the enemy authority by believing his suggestions and lies, or by willful submission to him, and when we do he will take it. This then allows him a platform of legal operation in our lives.

We get to enforce Christ's victory and in doing that there is sometimes the need for the authority that we have to be expressed and released. This happens through our words and actions, as his representatives who have governmental authority. We listen and obey; the rest is up to God. It is not by our might or power that we prevail but by his Spirit (Zech 4:6).

Yes, we do need to take authority over demonic forces that are at work. That is a part of our taking dominion, but we must not get into the mindset that we should go and engage them as we feel, or worse, because of something someone else did or because of a book that we've read. And we must know that it is not us taking them on, it is Jesus. He took them on already and won; we are simply enforcing that victory.

Authority is the key here, not just power. You can have power without authority and with that you might see some things happen. When you are given authority, you have the say over what happens within the sphere of your authority, and you have the power that comes with that authority. We hear what God wants to do, we come into agreement with him, we stand as his kings and ambassadors in the earth, give the word, believe that what we have prayed for will happen and then thank Him for that answer as we wait for it to manifest from the eternal realm into the earthly realm.

When that happens, things in the heavenlies begin to shift and change. It is all a far cry from pleading prayers to God to change the things that are happening in the earth. God can and does listen to those prayers, but he is waiting for the church to realize who she is and take her appointed place as a King-Priest, seated together with Christ in heavenly places, having dominion through Christ over the earth, as he always intended that we would do.

The odds are stacked

In your prayer life, if you have been fighting to break through to heaven and to get God to give you the things that you need in life, then you are fighting the wrong battle. God is very clear in his Word that he has already granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness (2 Pet 1:3) and that every blessing in heavenly places is ours (Eph 1:3).

We have already been granted everything that we need to live both our natural and spiritual lives with overflowing abundance and to make us partakers of the Lord's divine nature.

Armin Gesswein wrote, "(God's) Promises predict the answers to prayer. They are the molds into which we pour our prayers. They foretell what to expect... This makes Christian praying different! How? In a very real sense we pray from the answer... This is the way of the Lord, the way of faith. He promises – we believe."

God stacks the odds in our favour, no matter which way we look at it. He gives us the promises – the answers to our prayer before we even pray. So when we pray, we pray already knowing the outcome. That's why we can pray in faith. God's promise is sure!

Be intentional

Because we are seated with Christ in heavenly places in the Spirit and we have been extended the invitation to come before him, we need to be intentional about entering there. We can go before him to receive strategy and we can be deliberate in doing so. Going to the Throne Room is not just all about having a nice experience, although that will happen too. Experiences are good and necessary but it is not all just about us. It is also about the covenant being lived out, about being blessed to be a blessing. The Word tells us to boldly come.

Heb 4:16 *"Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in good time for every need."*

God wants to give you strategy for destroying the works of the devil. Confidently go before him, knowing that you have every right to appear before him at his Throne. Intentionally enter the Throne Room to receive strategy.

How we receive the promise

How then do we receive and bring into this realm what God has already granted and that sits waiting for us to collect in the spiritual realm?

(The list below is not a formula or a list of steps - it is simply what scripture says)

- We pray, telling God what we need. Be specific. Name what you need (Phil 4:6).
- Believe that you have received it when you pray (Mark 11:24), not believe after you have received it, but when you pray. See it already answered. It's based on the Lord's promises, not your feelings. Then thank God for his provision of that need (Phil 4:6).
- Command that provision (name it) to come from the spiritual realm into this one (Matt 17:20).
- If it doesn't manifest immediately, as in the case of healing, or within a reasonable time frame, depending on what it is, ask God if there is anything blocking the release of it (Dan 10:13), or if there is anything that you do not understand about the situation or that you need to do.
For example -
- a person may need a miracle, not healing. There is a difference.

- a person may be praying for provision but not actually working or looking for a job (2 Thess 3:10)

Just because you don't see an immediate manifestation don't let the devil tell you that nothing happened. God has already said, "Yes, it is granted." It just hasn't arrived in this realm yet. Don't listen to the devil's lies and innuendos. Keep thanking God and don't stop declaring that his goodness, favour and provision is granted to you and what you requested is yours. I remember listening to Bill Johnson one day and he said something along these lines - "If you are a Christian it is impossible for nothing to happen when you pray." While I can't remember the exact phrase he used, the meaning has stayed with me for years.

- If there are hindrances by demonic powers, simply take authority over them, bind them and command them to stop interfering (James 4:7).
- Stand! Stay in the place of faith and thanksgiving (1 Thess 5:18; Luke 18:1), refuse to disbelieve God, and hold your stand until you see the answer manifest. Some things may take longer than others to manifest but don't come out of that place of faith.
- Thank him when your provision manifests.

I want my treasures back

So what do we do if we have let the enemy take our God-given stuff? We take it back! (As before, the list below is not a formula or a list of steps - it is simply what scripture says).

- Identify the areas where you have handed your inheritance (Eph 1:11,14,18) over to the enemy, either knowingly or unknowingly (Luke 20:14), i.e. health, finances etc. Your inheritance is based on what the Lord has promised in the Word and what he has said personally to you.
- Admit that you haven't believed God and that you came into agreement with the enemy. Turn around and come back into agreement with God. Scripture calls that repentance (Rev 3:19).
- Take your stand - Take authority over the enemy, bind his activity, break any assignments against you in Jesus name (Matt 12:29; 18:18).
- Come before the righteous judge, as is your legal right, and ask for a 7 fold repayment of all that was stolen (Psa 97:2; Prov 6:31)
- When you know that you have got it back in the spirit then begin to thank the Lord for his promises, and keep thanking him for them (Luke 18:1; 1 Thess 5:18).
- Refuse to come out of agreement with God no matter what your circumstances look like and how long things seem to be taking (Mark 11:22; Rom 8:25; Heb 6:12; Psa 37:7a).

This is the part where most of us fall down. We start by trusting God and coming into agreement with him but then something happens – time happens – and in the process of waiting for our provision or our miracle we begin to listen to the enemy's lies. We can then give more weight to them than we do to the Word of God. When we do this we will come out of agreement with God and into agreement with the devil.

Are these things above a guarantee that we will see what God has promised manifest in our lives? According to the Word, they are. Either God's Word must be true and work or God is a liar. It's that simple, really. Heb 6:12 says *"...so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."*

But, but...

I know - about now your mind is screaming "but my experiences tell me that that is definitely not true" or "doesn't scripture say in....?" Before we look at the most common scripture relating to this let's take a moment to look at our experience.

At some point all of us encounter the reality of not receiving what we believe God has promised us. For example, we pray for someone who is sick and yet the person we are praying for dies. We pray for provision and it doesn't come. Why don't we receive what's been promised? That's not an easy question to answer and the actual answer will vary hugely from situation to situation and from person to person.

In evaluating our experiences regarding unanswered prayer there are a number of things to be considered:

- Did God promise us what we were praying for (either personally or in scripture)?
- Did we actually believe what God promised (personally and in scripture)?
- Did we receive revelation - that rhema word from God regarding the circumstance?
- Did we truly believe him or did our mind object and cause doubt to take up residence in our heart?
- Did we pray in faith?
- Did we stay in faith?
- Did our words line up with what God promised or did our words render his promise ineffective in our lives?
- Did we fulfill any conditions given in scripture for the prayer to be answered? For example... if when we pray, we believe that we have received them (Mk 9:23, Mk 11:24), if we pray in faith (Jam 5:15) ...and there are more of them as well. Have a look in scripture yourself at some of the scriptures regarding prayer.

Sometimes our experiences and our emotions can shout louder than scripture speaks and because of that we can begin to form a new theology, which we then believe, embrace and live out of. We can then begin to justify our position with statements like, "Well scripture

doesn't really mean that," "God doesn't want to heal everyone," "It's not God's time" etc, and before we know it we have a theology that is quite different from what scripture says. If we're really honest, most of us live out of our tweaked theology in some area more than we live out of what scripture actually does say.

We can also pick up our theology from what others teach, which may or may not be accurate. Or we may read the English translation of the words in scripture and think that that is what it means when the original words might mean something different. We need to remember that scripture was translated by people who had their own "current" theological understanding, personal thoughts and cultural beliefs. These things did affect the way that they translated parts of scripture and those translations are not always accurate according to the original meaning.

An important point to note here – without revelation we will generally only see in scripture what is in our current theological understanding. While we might read things in scripture that are outside that understanding, our mind can do some sneaky things. It can either stop us seeing the truth or cause us to think that it doesn't apply to us, or it can just block it out and cause us to skip over it.

Over the last couple of centuries we, as the church, have let the enemy take ground from us and we are now in a fight to retake that ground. He does not like to give up ground easily and unfortunately, because of our beliefs, we sometimes unwittingly work with him and not against him. Our double mindedness can nullify or render God's promises ineffective in our lives (Jam 1:6-8).

All of these things, and probably more, can play a part in our not receiving what God has promised us, yet they don't change what scripture actually says. And scripture appears to be quite black and white regarding prayer and God giving us what we ask for.

So the answer to why we sometimes don't receive what we pray for is not a simple, straightforward one. It is certainly not as simple as saying, "You didn't have enough faith." But we must realize and believe that God doesn't lie and that when he says something, or makes a promise in scripture, he actually means it and will do his part.

Let's look now at one of the most common scriptures relating to unanswered prayer. From my understanding this is the only passage that talks about not receiving what we have been promised. That passage is in Hebrews 11 and is what we call the 'hero list' – people who had faith but according to v13 didn't receive the things promised. In this chapter the main subject is faith. The verses all say that the people mentioned had faith, so faith isn't the issue here. Then what is the issue and what were they promised?

The people in the list in verses 1-13, and in other verses in this chapter, lived under the Old Covenant and as such had promises that were given under that covenant. They also had personal promises from God, and as far as I can ascertain they received what God promised them personally.

- Noah obeyed God and he and all his family were saved
- Jacob received his inheritance
- Sarah conceived,
- Abraham got his son and through them all the nations of the earth are now blessed etc.

From what we read in scripture they all saw their personal promises to them from God fulfilled.

What was it, then, that they didn't receive? The things they didn't receive in their time were the reality of the promised heavenly homeland (v14-17 They were looking forward in time to a city whose maker was God (the New Jerusalem). I believe also that according to v 39, many of them were shown by God the coming of the Messiah and they were also waiting for that promise. Jesus actually tells us this in John 8:56 *"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; and he saw it and was glad"*. They were looking forward in time to the giving of a New Covenant, a better covenant (v39 since God had provided something better for us). They were looking forward in time to the one who would be born who would be the fulfillment of all promises, and to those who would be recipients of the fulfillment of those promises – us!

For these things they stayed in faith, for this they believed; that we, along with them, might receive all Christ died to win back for us. Without us receiving what Christ died for, I believe their promises were not yet complete.

Looking to the future

God has given us many great promises and some of those relate to his answering our prayers. We are in a war – a war to get us to believe that God is not who he says he is, that he will not do what he has promised and that he is not faithful and good. So we contend, like those of old did. We contend not only for ourselves, personally, but also for those who follow after us.

We are contending on a personal level...

- Not to try and get something that we don't have, but to bring what we do already have in the spiritual realm into the earthly realm.
- And we contend to enforce Christ's victory to protect what he has won for us and given to us, to stop it being stolen from us, and to walk in the fullness of it.

And, beyond our personal lives, we contend...

- So that future generations may also walk in that fullness and more.
- To bring into freedom those who are in bondage (unsaved & saved) that they and their descendants may walk in the fullness of what Christ has for them.

For further study

Third Heaven Intercession – Patricia King CD set and manual. Available from our web-store at www.extremepropheticnz.com

RELEASING HEAVEN INTO EARTH

8¹

SEEING & HEARING FROM GOD

Let's look at the role that seeing and hearing plays in intercession and in our Christian life. It's vital for us to understand this if we are going to co-operate with God in intercession in the days ahead in the way that he wants us to.

Our first and most vital understanding is this – all revelation is an invitation to two things – intimacy and co-operation with the Lord.

- **Intimacy** - God desires relationship first and foremost, and revelation enhances that, causing us to come and spend time enquiring of his heart and purpose.
- **Co-operation** – Out of that intimacy and hearing his heart and purpose we co-operate to see his Kingdom come, his will be done and in Christ we release heaven into earth.

How do we receive revelation?

When we receive revelation in our spirit it has to be brought into our soul realm so that we can understand and 'get it' in our heart and mind. This is done in two primary ways – through hearing and seeing.

Sometimes people tell me that they don't hear God speak to them. However, the real issue is not usually **whether** we can hear God's voice, because scripture tells us that we can. The real issue is learning to recognize **how** we hear God's voice when he speaks to us.

Jesus told us that his sheep hear and know his voice (John 10:27). If we are one of his sheep, a child of God, then we can know his voice when he speaks to us. God wants us to hear him! When we hear his voice, it brings life and favour into our lives. In Proverbs 8:34 we read, *"Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors...for whoever finds me finds life and receives favour from the Lord."*

Throughout scripture we see God speaking to his people time and time again. Sometimes it is states clearly how he spoke to them, such as when Moses heard God speak from a burning bush (Ex 3:2) or when God spoke to Mary through the angel, Gabriel (Luke 1:26-35). On another occasion he spoke to Saul from the midst of a bright light (Acts 9:3). But there are many other times when it is not so clear how he spoke – whether it was in a vision, through internal, revelatory thoughts, or an audible voice.

Job 33:14 states that God speaks in different ways, but that we don't always recognize his voice. Later we will look at the different ways that we receive revelation. For now I just want to address our ability to hear God through the most common ways that we receive revelation. If we don't understand how we hear God in these ways, we will miss a lot of what he says to us.

The most common ways that we receive revelation from God are:
(These are in no particular order of importance)

- **Through the scriptures** (Logos and Rhema words)
- **The still, small voice of God** (God thoughts or visual impressions)
- **Teachings**
- **Prophecy or the "Rhema" word** from God (the personal, quickened word from God for us)

Through the scriptures (Logos and Rhema words)

To explain quickly how we hear through the scriptures: *Logos* is the written Word of God, what we know as the scriptures. It is important to read the scripture as it reveals truth. *Rhema* is a Holy Spirit quickened word. A rhema word can be a quickening of a scripture verse as we read our Bibles or a word direct from God through other means. When we are waiting on the Lord in prayer, he can speak to our heart and mind a 'rhema' word. A rhema word is Spirit to spirit communication - the Spirit of God communicating truth to our spirit and our mind.

The still, small voice of God (God thoughts or visual impressions)

The most common way that we receive revelation, apart from the *quickened* word in scripture is the still, small voice of God. This comes to us as God speaks into our heart and mind in God thoughts and visual impressions. It generally comes as a spontaneous flow of thoughts into our mind.

Some individuals have problems recognizing when God is speaking because they assume that all the thoughts they have originate from their mind. But that is not necessarily so.

What types of thoughts are there and where do they originate?

- **Thoughts of the mind** – these are analytical and logical, originating from the person.
- **Thoughts of the heart** – these are usually spontaneous and often emotionally based, originating from the person.
- **Thoughts from the spirit realm** – these come spontaneously to us either from God or the demonic. Some thoughts originate from the spirit realm. Both God and the demonic have the capacity to speak to us from that spirit realm. Jesus told us that his sheep hear and know his voice (John 10:27). We read in scripture that there are

"arguments" and "high things that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God" and that we are to "bring those thoughts into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor 10:4-5).

Auditory communication

The still, small voice of God is usually 'heard' as a spontaneous flow of thoughts to our mind or pictures and impressions seen with the 'the eyes of our heart'.

In fact, one of the Hebrew words for prophecy is 'nabi', which means to 'bubble up' spontaneously. In other words, the prophetic person hears the voice of God bubbling up as a spontaneous flow within their spirit and heart. Usually immediately after that spontaneous thought, our mind kicks into operation and tells us that we are probably making it up and we can't really be hearing from God. At this point we have a choice to make. We have to decide whether we are going to listen to our mind, or believe that we have heard from God.

Why does God speak in a still, small voice?

- It sharpens our listening skills and causes us to draw closer to the Lord to hear him.
- It brings us to a place of stillness, so that we can listen for him to speak.
- It stretches and grows our faith.

How do we recognize God when He speaks? When God speaks...

- He will never contradict his Word.
- He will never contradict his heart for people.
- He will never contradict his character.

Spontaneous thoughts in our mind that line up with God's Word, heart and character can most often be recognized as possible thoughts from God and not from our carnal flesh or from the devil.

We can recognize thoughts from our carnal flesh because they are hostile to God (Rom. 8:7). We can also recognize thoughts from the devil, because anything he speaks is based on lies (John 8:44). His words have the goal of stealing from us, killing the life of the Spirit within us, and destroying us (John 10:10).

Visual speech

The term "visual speech" may sound like a misnomer, but it isn't. Habakkuk refers to it in Hab 2 when he says, "...I will watch to see what he will say to me." We are so used to the term "hearing" applying to hearing with our ears, yet God often speaks through visions and dreams (Job 33:14-16).

There are many verses that refer to receiving visions of all sorts, but in the book of Daniel he shares about receiving visions in his mind or heart (Dan 4:5,10,13; 7:7). In these scriptures Daniel is speaking about visual impressions or inner visions.

Understanding how we see

Your internal vision centre is one of your most important spiritual senses. The Bible calls this vision centre the 'eyes of your heart' (Eph 1:18). It is involved in every vision, dream, and thought in both the natural and the spiritual realm. Your vision centre has many purposes. It helps you receive revelation and see into the spirit realm as well as enabling you to be a dreamer and creator like God.

The phrases in different translations of scripture 'eyes of the heart', 'eyes of the mind' and 'eyes of your understanding', all refer to the same function - our ability to see vision internally, or receive revelation in our mind or heart. In the original languages of scripture the words translated heart, mind, understanding, are all the same word and refer to the imagination².

In Ephesians 1:18, Paul prayed that *"the eyes of your heart (NASB)/understanding (KJV) would be enlightened."* So we know that there is the capability for a renewed mind and imagination. In this verse, the word 'understanding' comes from the Greek word 'dianoia', which means imagination².

Paul instructs us to "be transformed by the renewing of our mind" (Rom 12:2). The renewing and transformation of our mind and its faculties is expected. It's not an optional extra.

Our imagination (eyes of our heart/mind) is neither good nor bad in itself. It is simply a function of how God made us. How we use it, and to whom we surrender it, determines whether it will become darkened or enlightened. If we fill our mind / imagination with violence and rubbish, it will become darkened. If we surrender it to the Holy Spirit, and fill it with good things, it will become enlightened.

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things." (Phil. 4:8)

Your imagination is where you receive and see internal vision. All internal, visual revelation sourced in God will come to the 'eyes of your heart' (your imagination or vision centre) from your spirit so that your mind can grasp and understand spirit-received revelation.

Over the centuries we have misunderstood and therefore abused our imagination. We have often allowed it to be filled with all sorts of images that defile it so that it needs to be cleansed and sanctified in order to receive clear revelation from God.

In the book of Genesis we see God's imagination and thoughts manifested physically in the earthly realm as he spoke creation into existence. Mankind was made in his image and received that ability to imagine, conceive vision, and see it brought to manifested fruition. Mankind's mind and imagination were darkened and became 'vain' as a result of the fall. From the fall until Jesus' death and resurrection we see that man's imagination (eyes of his

heart and mind) was recorded as being 'vain', 'darkened' (Rom. 1:21), or 'evil' (Gen. 6:5). Rom 1:21-22 tells us why this happened. *"Although they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."*

Weigh what you hear

When it comes to hearing God, whether by speech or by vision, there are two extremes that we need to avoid.

1. **Mistaking the voice of God for our own thoughts or imagination.** This causes us to dismiss the voice of God before we've considered what we've heard and weighed it properly.
2. **To think that everything that comes into our mind is from God.** While I believe we do hear God a lot more than we give ourselves credit for, this extreme can result in deception and pride.

We need to carefully check out and weigh the things that we believe God is saying. Test every spirit every time is a good motto here. I Thess 5:19-21 says, *"Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophecies but test everything and hold fast to what is good."*

While we definitely believe that God speaks today through many different means, it is always wise to confirm what we hear. We need to weigh what we hear against these three things:

1. Scripture
2. The heart of God for mankind
3. The character of God – & the values upon which his Kingdom is built.

True communication from God will not contradict those three things. Don't be afraid to invite mature Christians to offer their discernment and counsel. It is always wise to walk in accountability.

There may be periods of time when God is silent when we pray -- we have positioned ourselves to listen, yet we hear nothing. This can be so frustrating and, if we are not careful, we can start striving to hear. During those times of silence it is wise for us to check if there is anything that God has already spoken to us that we've not responded to or put into practice. Sometimes he won't give us new direction if we haven't done what he has already asked. Otherwise, we can simply enjoy the Lord's presence and know that if there is anything that we need to hear then he will tell us.

Ask God to give you revelation as you pray, to show you what is happening in heaven and in the spiritual realm. Ask him to show you his heart and his will. This is essential if we want his Kingdom to come and his will to be done on earth as it is in heaven as a result of our prayer.

Spirituality & revelation

When you start to move among prophetic or intercessory people and listen to them talk, it is very easy to get overwhelmed by the terms they use and even to misunderstand what they say. It is easy to assume that they see open-eyed visions and have trips to heaven all the time. It is also easy to think that they are somehow more spiritual than you because of the way they talk and what they seem to experience.

So let's kill some sacred cows, some wrong assumptions and beliefs!

- **No particular way of hearing or seeing is necessarily superior to another.** Revelation is revelation however it comes. For example, a thought picture/impression inspired by God can be as weighty and profound as a trance vision.
- **No one-way of receiving revelation is more spiritual than another.** The way you receive revelation says nothing about your spirituality or maturity.
- **You don't need a higher level of spirituality to hear in particular ways from God;** you simply have to be open to receive. In fact, I know some people who are young in the Lord, that regularly see visions and have heavenly encounters. I also know some seemingly very mature Christians, who say they have never had a vision and are still unconvinced that we can even have heavenly encounters today.
- **Some ways of receiving may be more impressive or dramatic to our natural mind,** but that doesn't make them better. All the ways we receive are equally valid. In my walk with God, I have experienced both revelatory impressions and open-eyed visions. While the open-eyed visions are definitely more dramatic to receive, I have been as deeply impacted by some of the faint impressions I have received from the Lord.

In fact, the God-given subtle impressions and thoughts sometimes require greater faith to walk in than the more dramatic God encounters. Lean into those impressions, chase them down - they often contain deep riches and mysteries.

I remember Patricia King telling us that she has talked to many of the well-known prophets and prophetic people and has asked them, "What is the most common way you get your weighty, heavy duty, Church-changing revelations?" Their answer is very reassuring for all of us. The most common way they receive those weighty revelations is through the still, small voice of God, or the internal visual impression. They all said, they have just learned to embrace what they receive and dig deeper, asking God to open up that revelation further. Wow! How reassuring is that? We all hear like that. Let's capture those faint revelations with our focus and lean into God for deeper insight concerning them.

At the same time, we should desire and ask for all the different ways of receiving revelation to be opened up to us. We are invited to press into God for a greater revelation of Himself and the mysteries of His Kingdom.

There are definitely individuals who move with great ease and sensitivity in the revelatory gifts of the Spirit. Some have unique ministry gifting in those areas, but I believe with faith, practice,

and persistence we can all see and hear with greater clarity, and frequency than we do at present.

Levels of revelation

Some teach that there are levels of revelation and infer that faint impressions are a low level but you can advance to various stages such as "conscious illumination", open visions, trances, and then "in body" and "out of body" trips to heaven.

I believe we can grow in our ability to receive revelation, but that growth is not going from level to level of superiority in vision and experience. The growth is moving into a deeper place of surrender, death to self, and openness to God. It is in pursuing a deeper relationship with him, so that we know and share his heart more and more. It is being in him, and having him able to trust us with the secrets of his heart. It is in becoming ever more humble as we know him more. In that state of humility, superiority has no place.

I see no indication of these levels in scripture, or of any requirement by God to advance through different levels. Jesus took Peter, James and John into a spiritual encounter where they saw Moses and Elijah. If we subscribe to the idea of levels of revelation, this type of encounter is pretty much up there at the top, yet we do not see evidence of prior levels of revelatory maturity in these three disciples. Saul's encounter with Jesus on the Damascus road in Acts 9:3-9, is another example. As far as we know from scripture, this was his first vision. Yet, if we subscribed to the concept of levels, this would be in the category of open vision or trance. Does it mean that anything these men received after those experiences, which was not on the level of trance vision, was a lesser revelation? Of course not! Yet, according to the idea of levels of experience (meaning, advancing through levels), then anything less would be going backwards.

We cannot command how we receive revelation from God. He is sovereign. He gives the type of revelation that he desires to give. We cannot control that part of receiving revelation. There is no formula that will ensure we receive a particular type of revelation. We simply surrender to Holy Spirit and open our hearts to receive communication and insight from him.

Fostering the belief that there are superior levels of revelation can create harmful mindsets. Those who have never seen an open-eyed vision may think they are somehow inferior to others who receive the "higher level revelation", conversely they might feel superior to others if they experience the "higher levels". God does not have superior or inferior children so let's embrace his unconditional love and walk in humility before him and each other.

No type of revelation is better than another - they are simply different. The types of revelation you receive, say nothing about you as a person. They say nothing about your character and they are not indicators of maturity or superiority. The revelations you receive simply say you have a loving Heavenly Father, who gives good gifts to his children.

Subjectivity in revelation

All revelation is prone to subjectivity. Each of us have lenses we look through that distort or color our vision. Our very humanness causes everything we see and experience to be subjective, to one degree or another.

Faint impressions, the still, small voice of God, and some of the other ways of receiving revelation are received through the eyes of our heart (our imagination). As a result, they can be influenced by our thoughts, emotions, doctrinal beliefs, point of view, and even our woundedness. We must be careful to make sure that all things revealed are weighed, judged, and filtered through the knowledge of God's Word, His heart, and His character.

Open-eyed visions, trances and encounters in heaven are also prone to subjectivity although maybe not as much. We must know how to rightly interpret what we are seeing as well as know how to mentor others in what they see and experience.

My husband Rob and I were recently ministering in a nation that is not very welcoming of missionaries. I suddenly had an attack of unstable tummy and had to go to the bathroom. While there, I saw a young child crying. I asked her if she was okay and she asked me to pray with her. She shared that she had just seen a vision of her Dad being arrested by the police. Her father was doing ministry in this nation. She was scared and thought that because she saw it in a vision that it was definitely going to happen. I shared with her that sometimes God shows us things so we can use the authority He has given us to avert the situation and stop it from happening. We prayed and God's peace filled her. Later, I was able to share with her Mother what had happened. She said her daughter saw visions very often and that knowing how to mentor her in this gift was hard at times.

This young girl didn't yet have the maturity to understand that not everything God shows us in vision form is a "fait accompli". She saw that revelation through lenses. Those lenses were her age, her understanding of why God gives revelation, and her understanding of God's heart and character. Sometimes God will show us things, like the vision she received, so that we will go to prayer and avert the content of the vision from happening.

For some of us, that might be enough to make us say we only want to function in the ways of receiving revelation that are less subjective, but God will not allow that. Why? He wants to partner with us and cause us to grow in our trust in Him. He has not only promised to move sovereignly in our lives, but he has promised to be with us and help us. As we walk by faith in His promises, He goes with us and works in and through us.

We must know how to rightly interpret what we are seeing as well as know how to mentor others in what they see and experience.

Our desire should be to grow in our ability to access all that He has for us. Personally, I want to be experiencing the reality of heaven more and more in my daily life. After all, we are told in Col. 3:1 to "*seek those things that are above, where Christ is...*"

All that He has and all that He is, has been given to you. Whether you access it or not is up to you. Do you believe it? Use your faith. It's what connects you to the promises of God and enables you to access them.

Prophetic terminology

Some terminology concerning our life in Christ needs to be de-mystified. People need to know exactly what we are saying. We want a Church that is natural and real in its supernatural lifestyle - not weird, spooky or frightening.

There are three extremes we can go to when describing visions and experiences. One can lead to pride, another to a false sense of humility, and the last can lead to deception.

- **To use the correct terms, but do so in a way that is designed to impress those we are talking to.** For example, it can sound impressive to say, "I had a trance vision the other day." It may be true, but we need to be careful that we don't allow spiritual pride to creep in. Pride can defile not only our ability to see and hear but also our delivery. People will sense that defilement around us. While using correct terms, we need to be careful as to how we share and how we describe what we see. We don't want to isolate people or make them feel inferior in any way.
- **To downplay everything.** Because of a lack of understanding, many modern Christians tend to do this. We either don't understand what we saw, or we say, "I saw a picture" when we mean, "I saw a vision." When we say that, we don't realize we may be downplaying the reality of what happened. We often do this out of a false sense of humility. Don't be afraid to use the word "vision" if you indeed have had a vision. What is the difference between a picture and a vision? I define a picture is something usually static, with no life or movement. A vision, however, is full of the life and power of God, and is often full of movement. Sometimes, you will even see or feel yourself functioning inside that vision.
- **To exaggerate or stretch the truth.** Most of us don't do that deliberately, but we may say things like, "I saw a vision" when we mean that we sensed, perceived, or had an impression. An impression potentially carries as much weight as an open-vision and its reality in the spirit realm is the same. The difference is only in the *receiving* of the revelation. Be careful to make sure you are accurate in how you describe things. Otherwise, you will end up misleading people and in the end you could damage your credibility, as well.

There is a balance between the extremes. Use the correct terminology but don't over-spiritualize. Don't exaggerate the truth and don't underplay the reality of what you are experiencing.

Manifestations of revelation

What are some terms prophetic people and scripture use to describe the way revelation is manifested to us? They can sound very mystical and spiritual but let's de-mystify the terms, so we can understand what we are talking about.

The terms listed below are all ways we can receive revelation. This is probably not an exhaustive list and the terms are in no particular order, though the first two are the most common ways we receive revelation.

- **Still, small voice of God** –This is an internal hearing - God speaks spontaneous words or thoughts into our mind and heart from our spirit.
- **Internal visual impression** - A thought picture, impression or vision, that is seen with the eyes of our understanding/heart/mind and comes into our mind, or heart from our spirit. Much of what we see in the Spirit will be in the realm of internal sight. It can be initiated by faith in co-operation with the Holy Spirit.
- **Open-eyed vision** – Physical reality fades and the spirit realm is opened before us while our eyes are open. In an open-eyed vision, our spirit usurps our natural body and internal vision center, overriding them.
- **Open-eye spiritual vision** – Our eyes are open but a strong impression, sensing, or perceiving is overlaid onto the physical realm – we can usually still see the physical realm.
- **Closed-eye vision** – We receive a strong impression, or pictures like a TV screen on the back of our eyelids.
- **Trance vision** – Our body usually goes very still and can even be frozen in place. Our eyes can be open or shut. Often we are in the vision, operating within it.
- **Perceiving** – A strong knowing within, that a particular reality is there.
- **The scriptures** – *Rhema* and *logos*. Where God makes scripture “come alive” to us. It is usually through thoughts or impressions, but can also be in vision form, when a scripture comes alive to us and we see it as it happened.
- **Through creation** – God shows us revelation through what we see in the natural realm.
- **Dreams / daydreams** –**Dreams** are often used by God to reveal kingdom mysteries and His heart. Dreams are most often symbolic in nature and will often apply to our personal life and emotional state, either conscious or unconscious. Also don't dismiss your daydreams. They can also be God speaking into your future.
- **Night visions /experiences** – These happen while we sleep but are different from a dream. Night visions are often more literal than symbolic and will often relate to specific situations outside of our personal life. Sometimes we will experience ourselves ministering in specific situations while we sleep, these are not always dreams but are sometimes spiritual reality.
- **Symbols** - Objects, food, animals, numbers, and nature can all be representative of realities in the heavenly realms.

- **Colors** – In the Word, colors are symbolic and have spiritual meaning.
- **Angelic visitation** – Where we receive revelation from one of God's angelic messengers.
- **Inner audible voice** - When the voice of God is so loud in our mind, it might as well have been audible.
- **Audible voice of God** - God's voice is heard with our natural hearing.
- **Words of knowledge** - One of the gifts of the Spirit, where we know something we could not know naturally about a person or situation.
- **Body impressions** - Through physical sensation – Don't dismiss what you feel. For example, heat in the hands often means a healing anointing is manifesting. Pain in the body may be a word of knowledge.
- **Spiritual discernment** - The ability to ascertain the presence, identity, and activities of both good and evil spirits.
- **Inner witness** - God confirms something to you by an inner knowing that: "This thing is a God thing."
- **Prophecy** – God speaks to us through other believers. Prophecy is not always accompanied by, "Thus saith the Lord." Mostly, it comes in simple, understandable, plain speech.
- **Visitation** – An extended period of time when God speaks through visions or speech to an individual or group, regarding the corporate Body of Christ, a ministry, or individual Church.

Hopefully, the above explanations have helped give understanding to some prophetic terminology. Again, I emphasize the way we receive revelation from the Lord is, in the end, not the important thing. The important thing is, we receive revelation and grow in relationship with the Lord and others, as a result. Remember, revelation is revelation however it comes, and all revelation is an invitation to intimacy and co-operation with the Lord.

For further study

Visions, Visitations & the Voice of God – Lyn Packer, *Ecstatic Prophecy* – Stacey Campbell, *The Seer* – James Goll
(the above books are available from our web-store www.extremepropheticnz.com)

1 This chapter is from my book "Visions, Visitations & the Voice of God"

2 New Dictionary of Theology Vol 3 – "dianoia" always means imagination. For example also see 1 Tim 4:12-15 Paul tells Timothy "Don't neglect the gift...meditate on these things – meditate dianoia = imagine, frame pictures.

RELEASING HEAVEN INTO EARTH

ABOUT LYN PACKER

Lyn, along with her husband Rob, leads Extreme Prophetic in New Zealand. Lyn's ministry carries a very strong prophetic edge. She ministers primarily in teaching and the prophetic, calling and enabling people to step into their destiny. Her prophetic gifting is expressed through teaching, art, dance, story and poetry. Lyn also ministers powerfully in the area of inner healing, drawing from scripture and her own life experience.

Over the years Lyn has written several books covering a variety of subjects - visions and hearing God, worship dance, two volumes of poetry and two books of prophetic allegories called 'Whispers from Heaven 1&2'. As an artist she also holds exhibitions that minister deeply to people.

Rob and Lyn have been involved in Christian ministry for all of their adult life. They were pastors for many years, either as part of the pastoral team in several churches, or as senior pastors. They now minister under the apostolic covering of Extreme Prophetic USA (under the leadership of Patricia King) as the team leaders for Extreme Prophetic NZ. The international headquarters for Extreme Prophetic is located in Maricopa, Arizona, USA

The ministry of Extreme Prophetic NZ equips the body of Christ to walk in the supernatural power of God through schools, conferences, prophetic evangelism training and outreach. They also have a strong involvement in evangelism and social justice mission projects.

Contact information:

Extreme Prophetic NZ

PO Box 12-1124

Henderson

Auckland 0650

Phone within NZ 09 833 6873 international 64 9 833 6873

E-mail nz@xpmedia.com

Web www.extremepropheticnz.com

For more resources by Lyn & Rob Packer go to www.extremepropheticnz.com